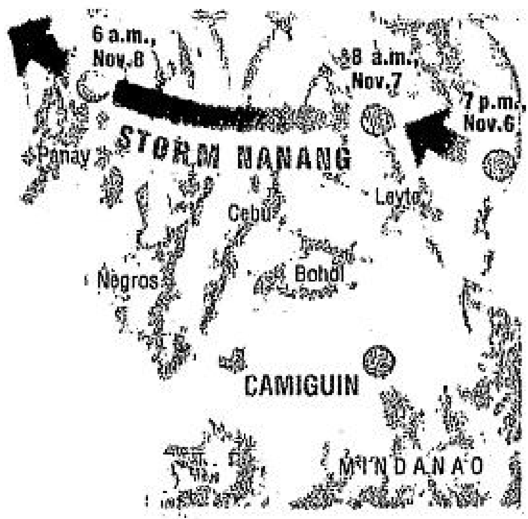
NBI hot on trail of suspect in Nida murder

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 2



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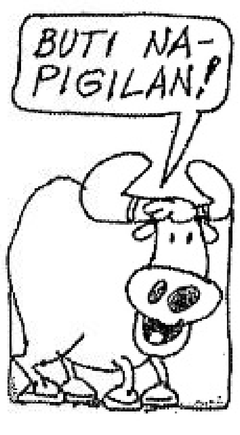
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2001 ★ 84 PAGES 7 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 334 ₱15

No to red, white, blue Hollywood

LOS ANGELES—In what he said was a sign of respect for American soldiers fighting in Afghanistan, a city councilman had proposed to paint the landmark Hollywood

NO/ A21


BUTI NA-PIGILAN!

Gov weeps over deaths

110 dead; 290 still missing

By Grace C. Albasin and Butch D. Enerio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MAMBAJAO, Camiguin—"I still cannot believe what happened. I've never seen anything like this," a sobbing Camiguin Gov. Pedro Romualdo yesterday said over national radio as he surveyed the death and destruction wrought by typhoon Nanang on his island province.

The typhoon left the island with at least 81 people dead, of whom 72 were from just one town. Rescuers dug with their bare hands through walls of mud to reach survivors.

The rain was so heavy that it dislodged volcanic boulders and sent them crashing into villages while most people were still sleeping on Wednesday.

"It's grim but we are expecting to recover more dead bodies," Romualdo said.

Only two weeks ago, merrymaking filled every corner of the province during the celebration of the 22nd Lanzones Festival.

The total number of fatalities, including those in nearby provinces, rose to 110 people as of press time, officials said. At least 290 were reported missing.

Off Pangasinan, a Taiwanese cargo ship carrying 19 Filipino crewmen sank yesterday in stormy seas while heading for Hong Kong with logs from Indonesia. The crewmen were feared dead.

Romualdo said the typhoon was the biggest calamity to hit Camiguin since 1951, when Mt. Hibok-Hibok, one of seven volcanoes on the is-

GOV/ A20

RESCUE 2000
RESCUE 2000
RESCUE 2000
RESCUE 2000
RESCUE 2000

THE GOVERNOR of Camiguin breaks down when he talks of the devastation of his province; 72 were killed in one town alone, Mahinog, where rescuers are shown here retrieving another body. EDWIN BACASMAS

Solved, says PNP chief on kidnaps

By John Nery

MIDWAY through an already extended interview full of conflicting statistics, the country's top cop tries to cut through the number clutter.

"We are doing something about it," PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza says about the Philippine National Police's response to the growing problem of kidnap cases. "It has been solved!"

The mild-mannered PNP chief is no stranger to media, but it's easy to see that he's no media "player." For one thing, he's "too shy"—as President Macapagal-Arroyo once described him. Even in a small-group setting, even when he answers questions readily and with a smile, he retains an air of reserve. For another, he does not possess the gift of gab.

While he is fluent (he does not speak from a script or from cue cards), his words sometimes have a scattershot quality. When speaking before groups, such as a security briefing before the mayors of Metro Manila and the officials of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority last month, he has the tendency to drone on even after a point is made.

But he welcomes the INQUIRER effort of putting out a special report on the recent surge of kidnappings. "Good. It's about time," he says at the start of the interview.

On another day, finding himself with some extra time at the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame, he pops in during as INQUIRER interview with Director Lucas Managuelod, chief of the Directorate for Investigation and Detection Management, and gamely answers several more questions.

At one point in the first interview, replying to a query about whether it is possible to obtain copies of official police documents on kidnapping cases, he replies in the affirmative. "We are trying to be very transparent now."

SOLVED/ A4

KIDNAPPING 2001

An I-TEAM Report

(Second of four parts)

'Worst year ever,' says Ang-See

By Nancy Carvajal

IS THE kidnap-for-ransom scourge under control? President Macapagal-Arroyo telegraphed as much when she lavished praise on Philippine National Police chief Leandro Mendoza in Baguio last Saturday.

Among other feats, the President said, Director General Mendoza had made great strides against kidnapping syndicates preying on the Chinese-Filipino community.

She must have been reaching for hyperbole, because the PNP's own records show that kidnapping has surged under her administration.

The day when about 200 leaders of the Chinese-Filipino community met with the President in Malacañang to sound the alarm about the recent surge in kidnappings is a case in point.

That day, Oct. 15, the number of kidnap victims for the year stood at

WORST/ A4

Best place in Camiguin wiped out

By Grace Cantal-Albasin
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MAHINOG, Camiguin—The village of Hubangon here used to be Camiguin's best barangay.

Gov. Pedro Romualdo said Hubangon had been winning the Bulawanong (Gold) Barangay in the province as it was the cleanest village.

The people in the village are healthy. Each family owns a backyard garden where they grow lanzones, mango and the other fruit-bearing trees. Some raise livestock.

"They do not go hungry. I can just imagine the hard work they do in order to uplift their living standards. But all this was taken away in just a blink of an eye with the horrendous whirlwind," Romualdo told the INQUIRER.

The road that residents used to traverse is now covered with boulders and mud.

Floodwaters from the mountains were too strong, carrying away houses to the shore. The rampaging mud buried people and animals.

The cadavers, most of them children, were bloated.

Dead animals sprawled along the highway. The rice fields were also covered with boulders.

The residents in Hubangon claimed there were hundreds buried alive.

On Thursday, rescuers found it

BEST/ A20

Solon slams gov't over Imelda pension

By Christine Avendaño and Andrea T. Echavez

IMELDA Marcos neither needs a pension nor deserves the honor that comes with it, Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran yesterday said.

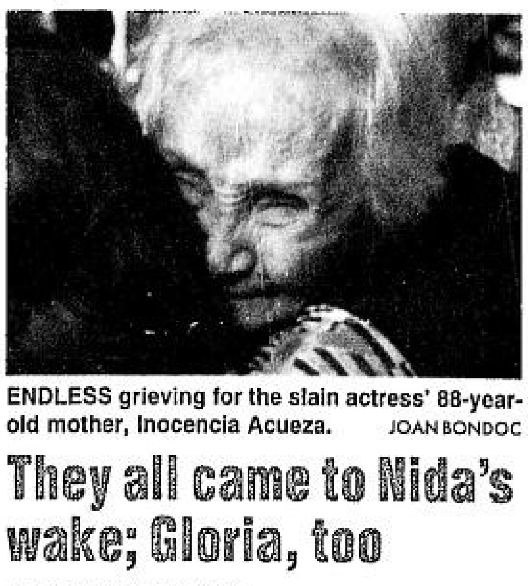
Beltran expressed outrage over the government's decision to grant the former first lady P4,500 in monthly pension as widow of President Ferdinand Marcos, a war veteran.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes personally handed Mrs. Marcos two pension checks amounting to over P46,500 on Wednesday. Reyes said the amount represented the widow's back-pension for last year.

Beltran pointed out that some historians were questioning the late dictator's supposed acts of heroism during the war.

"Whatever heroism her husband

SOLON/ A21



ENDLESS grieving for the slain actress' 88-year-old mother, Inocencia Acueza. JOAN BONDOC

They all came to Nida's wake; Gloria, too

By Leah Salterio

THE GLITZY world of show biz is in mourning for one of its well-loved stars.

Nida Blanca's colleagues, stars big and small, continued yesterday to troop to the White Plains Chapel in Quezon City, where her body lies in state, to pay their respects and keep vigil.

Action star Robin Padilla, who starred with

THEY/ A20

NIDA MURDER

NBI hot on trail of one suspect

By Philip C. Tubeza and Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has at least one suspect in the brutal killing of actress Nida Blanca and is pursuing two angles apart from robbery, a highly placed source told the INQUIRER yesterday.

But the source who spoke on condition of anonymity declined to provide details, saying the investigation was at a "sensitive stage."

The Philippine National Police has formed "Task Force Marsha" to widen its probe of the killing, and investigators are questioning 10 security guards and tenants of the Atlanta Center in Greenhills, San Juan, where Blanca's body was found at 8 a.m. Wednesday.

Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, director of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (National Capital Region), said PNP investigators had taken the sworn statements of four persons who came forward to reveal what they knew. He declined to name them.

Gualberto said investigators would question six other per-

NBI/ A20

PRODUCTION design by members of the movie industry who loved her, the setting for Nida Blanca's wake at the White Plains chapel is a picture of splendor and simplicity. JOAN BONDOC

NA-PRESSURE NG PHONECALLI

Defense attacks testimony vs Erap

By Volt Contreras

LAWYERS of deposed President Joseph Estrada yesterday began picking apart the testimony of former Social Security System chair Carlos Arellano that Estrada had "pressured" him into making a big purchase of Belle Corp. shares using SSS funds in 1999.

Arellano, on cross examination by defense lawyer, former Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas, on the second day of the plunder trial of Estrada, admitted the following:

- That he decided to testify against Estrada after being informed by then Government Service and Insurance System chair Federico Pascual that both of them were going to be implicated in the Estrada plunder case by businessman and now Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez.
- That in the three phone calls Estrada allegedly made "instructing" him to buy Belle Corp. shares, the former president did not tell him how many shares to buy and at what price.
- That it was his (Arellano's) decision—not Estrada's—to purchase 249 million Belle shares on Oct. 21, 1999 at P3.14 per share for a total of P784 million.
- That he "presumed" that Estrada had wanted him to make such a big purchase because "the former president would not have called me for just a small matter.
- That the SSS, during his term, had been buying Belle shares regularly even without "pressure" from Estrada, and that in October 1999 alone, the SSS transacted with Belle 51 times.
- That it was only on Oct. 21, 1999 that the SSS bought Belle shares because of alleged pressure from Estrada, accounting for 16 of the total 51 transactions that month.

Cuevas, in an interview outside the court, said Arellano's admissions showed that the Oct. 21 purchase was made "in the regular course of business"—not because of any pressure from Estrada.

Arellano, during direct examination on Wednesday, said he carried out Estrada's order to buy a "significant bloc" of Belle shares even though he personally thought the timing was off for such a big purchase.

Asked by Cuevas yesterday why he went into such heavy buying, Arellano stuck to his testimony: "Because of the calls of the president."

Arellano reiterated that the Oct. 21, 1999 purchase was a "major and significant transaction" involving Belle shares that entire month.

He said that in October alone, the SSS bought a total of 329.855 million Belle shares.

Of that number, the huge chunk of 249 million shares were purchased on Oct. 21 because of alleged pressure from Estrada, he said.

Raymund Fortun, another defense lawyer, wondered aloud why Arellano would say that it was bad timing to trade in Belle shares at that particular time in October, when the SSS transacted with Belle 51 times that month.

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño, who conducted the direct examination of Arellano, said the witness' performance yesterday did not give the defense panel the upper hand.

"What he said is had the President not called him, he would not bought a significant volume of Belle shares," Zuño said.

Estrada is accused of pocketing P189.7 million in commissions from the Oct. 21, 1999 SSS purchase of Belle stock which was allegedly "arranged" by another of his cronies, Jaime Dichaves.

Dichaves, a Belle board member, was added as a respondent to the plunder case last month, but has remained at large.

Arellano said his initial reaction to Pascual's warning about Jimenez's move was, "Why? We have done nothing wrong."

Cuevas asked Arellano why he went on to file an affidavit against Estrada "if there was nothing illegal" about the Oct. 21 Belle transaction.

"So you would not have executed the affidavit if you were not threatened with a plunder charge? You were worried, (were you not) even if you say you did nothing wrong, that government will pin you for plunder?" Cuevas asked Arellano.

Arellano maintained that he and Pascual just wanted to "tell the truth."

Now, Erap wants eye cyst removed

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada is set to petition the Sandiganbayan to allow him to undergo an operation to remove a cyst in his left eye, his lawyer said Thursday.

Estrada is hopeful the anti-graft court will approve his request, since the operation will be done at a local hospital and not abroad, said lawyer Cleofe Versola.

"We will file a motion tomorrow (Friday) or Monday to ask the court to allow Mr. Estrada to have his left eye operated on," Versola told Agence France Presse.

The court allowed Estrada to skip his trial for plunder on Wednesday and Thursday after doctors at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where he is detained said the ousted president was suffering from infectious conjunctivitis or sore eyes.

Estrada was not the only one hounded by "medical problems" in the plunder case, however, which the Sandiganbayan's Third Division is hearing.

The Partido ng Masang Pilipino, which staunchly supports Estrada, said Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy should have his ears examined, because his "hearing problem" could affect his job.

Badoy wears a hearing aid. During the plunder trial, he has often stood up to get closer to the witnesses whom he would ask to speak louder.

In a press statement, the PMP said Badoy should "submit himself to a physical exam... following reports that he has been suffering from hearing loss."

"For a man with a sensitive duty, it is imperative that he has complete sensory perception. If not, how could he be expected to hand down a fair judgment?" the statement said. *Volt Contreras, with an AFP report*

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Friday, 09 November 2001
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7:30PM - 9:00PM
Saturday, 10 November 2001
9:00AM - 4:00PM
Seminar:
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Ayala Center, Makati City
Friday, 09 November 2001
6:00PM - 7:30PM

CEBU*
Open Info Day:
Function Room 2
Waterfront Hotel,
Lahug, Cebu City
Sunday, 11 November 2001
9:00AM - 2:00PM
3:30PM - 5:00PM
Seminar:
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No takers for Napocor –John O

THERE seems to be no takers for the National Power Corp.

This was disclosed yesterday by Sen. John Osmeña who has just come back from an international energy convention in Argentina which he attended with the Senate energy committee chair, Sen. Rene Cayetano.

"I don't think there are any takers (for Napocor)," Osmeña told Senate reporters yesterday.

Osmeña said that officials from other countries were even saying bad things about the Philippines during the open forum.

Asked what these "bad things" are, Osmeña could only say that other countries "have so much complaints about us."

As such, Osmeña said the government would have to "rethink" its position on whether or not to privatize the state-owned Napocor.

"We might have to postpone the privatization," he said.

As such, Osmeña said the government would have to absorb losses from running the debt-ridden Napocor.

"While our losses would continue to mount, we will have no choice. That's unless we hold a *baratillo* sale (for Napocor) and we really have to put up a bargain sale," he said.

DESIERTO'S ACCUSER

Lawyer unfazed by disbarment threats

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE LAWYER who filed an impeachment complaint in the House against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said yesterday it is the latter, not he, who should be disbarred for alleged corruption.

Lawyer Ernesto Francisco was reacting to the Ombudsman's statement the other day that his (Desierto's) office was studying what cases to file against Francisco, after he lodged the impeachment complaint against Desierto.

"If there's anyone who should be disbarred, it is him because he's guilty of corruption," Francisco told the Inquirer, referring to Desierto.

Desierto had threatened to initiate disbarment proceedings against Francisco, who admitted to personally handing a bribe to Desierto to sit on a case involving his client, Luke Roxas, in 1997.

In a phone interview, Francisco said he didn't care if Desierto filed cases against him because he could do the same to the Ombudsman. He said he would also file disbarment proceedings against Desierto.

"He (Desierto) has more to lose," Francisco said.

Francisco, in his impeachment complaint, charged Desierto with accepting video equipment and half a million pesos from Roxas to stall the investigation of a case involving the latter's bank.

Sen. John Osmeña said yesterday Desierto deserved to be impeached because he has not behaved well in public.

"You know, he who lives by the sword dies by the sword," Osmeña told reporters, alluding to the Ombudsman's penchant for making enemies.

"*Ang bunganga niya, nangangagat siya. Maski sino, kinakagat niya. Walang tigil ang* presscon *niya* (He talks too much and he bites. He bites just about anyone. He doesn't stop holding press conferences)," the senator, who was visibly irked, said.

Sen. Robert Barbers said it was not good to see officials like the Ombudsman and Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena taking their quarrels before the public.

He said public officials should always be courteous to their colleagues and not wash their dirty linen in public.

Garchitorena and Sandiganbayan Third Division Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy have their own feud going in connection with the plunder trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

The minority in the House has urged its leadership "to give due course" to the impeachment complaint filed by Francisco against Desierto. The complaint was endorsed by Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno.

Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said he wants the complaint heard "on its merits" and not for any other consideration like "friendship."

Padilla made the statement in "view of the seriousness of the charge" against Desierto and in reaction to Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar's statement last Tuesday.

Villar had said he didn't think the impeachment complaint would prosper in the House because the Ombudsman had many friends there.

But, Francisco said, House secretary general Roberto Nazareno told him yesterday the impeachment complaint has been transmitted to Speaker Jose de Venecia. *With Cynthia D. Balana*

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MAMAMAYAN MUNA
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Gloria set to meet US Pacific chief

By Dona Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will meet with Admiral Dennis Blair, commander-in-chief of the US Pacific command, on the eve of her nine-day official visit to the United States next week.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the two will meet on Nov. 13 in Cagayan de Oro, immediately upon the President's arrival from an overnight state visit to Indonesia from Nov. 12-13.

The meeting is expected to intensify the two countries' military coordination in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf and international terrorism.

It would be Blair's first visit here since the Sept. 11 terrorist attack in the US.

He was here on July 11 for a three-day official visit, at the height of the Abu Sayyaf hostage crisis involving three Americans, missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and Guillermo Sobero.

Last month Sobero was confirmed to have been beheaded by his captors.

The US considers the Abu Sayyaf as international terrorists.

Prior to Blair's arrival, other top US defense officials met with Philippine security officials following the Sept. 11 attack.

Admiral Thomas Fargo, US Pacific fleet commander-in-chief, quietly visited the country on Sept 26.

He met with national security adviser Roilo Golez aboard the presidential yacht, Ang Pangulo in Subic Bay.

Blair had reportedly approved the mission of a team of US counter-terrorism experts who arrived in the country last week to assess the military campaign against the Abu Sayyaf.

Impressed

Tiglao yesterday disclosed that the US military advisers were "impressed" with the military's ongoing offensive against the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and expressed "high regards" for Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, who heads the Southern Command.

"Essentially they didn't have much complaints with the way we are handling the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf, and the President is very happy about it," he said.

The US advisers were also expected to propose the kind of assistance that the US can provide to the Philippine military. But Tiglao did not elaborate.

Tiglao said Ms Macapagal had expressed her pride for the military's effectiveness against the Abu Sayyaf despite the lack of equipment.

"As the President said in an interview with BBC (in Brunei), just look at the war against Bin Laden in Afghanistan. They have wide open spaces, desert and you can deploy satellite spy system. Here we have thick vegetation, caves and jungle cover which satellite spy systems can't penetrate," he said.

Ms Macapagal had given her all-out support to the US military strike in Afghanistan, and allowed the use of military bases for fueling and transit purposes.

Regional response

She pushed for a regional response against terrorism in Asean, and offered to host multilateral anti-terrorist war games.

The Philippines initiated the Asean declaration that strongly condemned the Sept. 11 terrorist attack as an "assault against humanity," but skipped the contentious US retaliatory strike on Afghanistan.

Tiglao said that aside from talking about the war against Abu Sayyaf, Ms Macapagal will make a pitch for the war against poverty.

"The message that the President wants to get across to US officials and the American public is that while there's a war against terrorism, this also has to go hand in hand with the war against poverty," he said.

"So aside form defense assistance, we'd also like to get assistance for development of Mindanao, specially the Muslim area."

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GMA not biting Nur's bait

By Carlito Pablo

IF Nur Misuari is spoiling for a fight, President Macapagal-Arroyo is not biting his bait so far.

"I would like to treat him with appropriate respect," she said yesterday of Misuari who has threatened to resume the war for secession in Muslim Mindanao.

The President said she is leaving it up to her "technical and operational people" what to do with Misuari, erstwhile chair of the Moro National Liberation Front.

Misuari's days as governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao are also numbered as he had refused to participate in the upcoming ARMM elections on Nov. 26.

Malacañang is backing a full slate led by Dr. Parouk Hussin, head of the MNLF committee of 15 which earlier ousted Misuari as MNLF chair.

Ms Macapagal declined to comment on Misuari's threats.

The military's Southern Command had earlier said it is prepared to respond to any threat to

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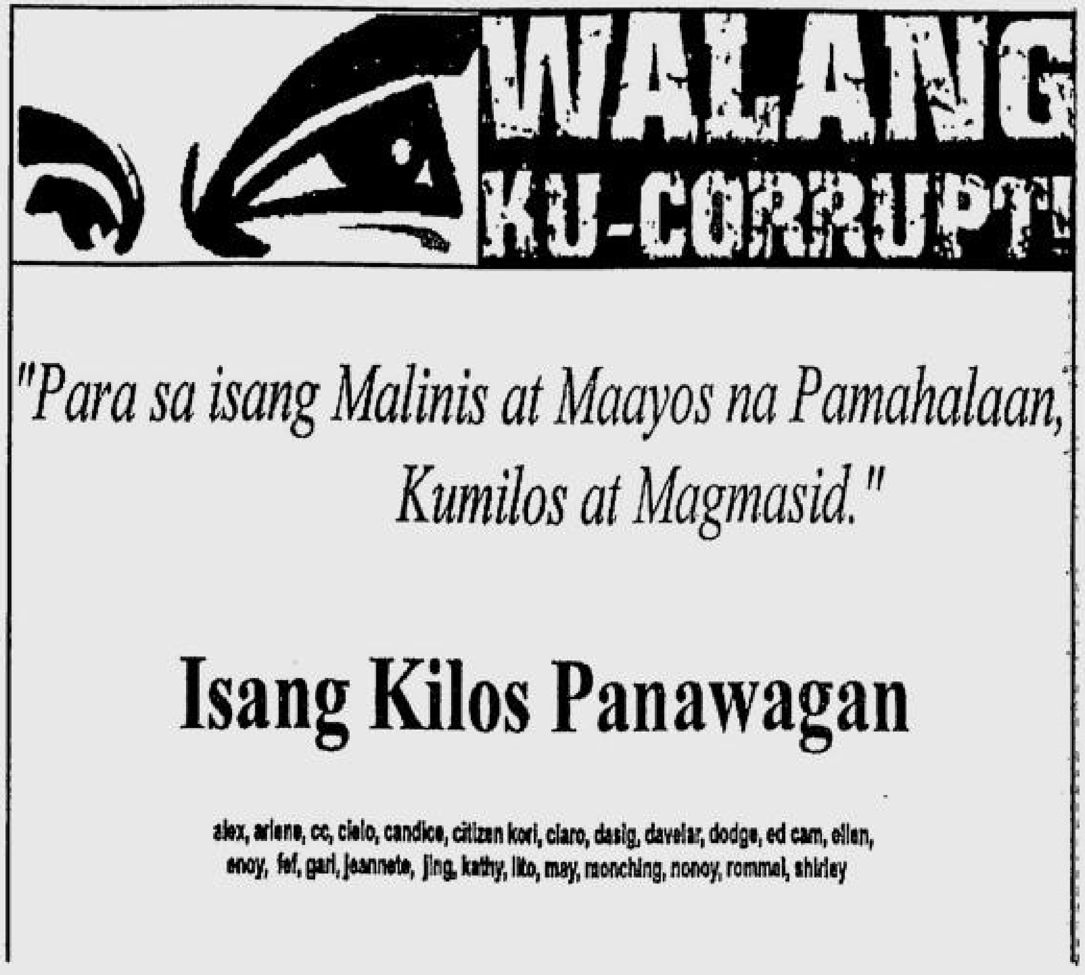

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'Worst year ever,' says Ang-See

(From page A1)

147. Before the day was over, however, that official figure was already obsolete. One male Chinese-Filipino student had become yet another kidnap-for-ransom statistic.

Official police records show that, as of Oct. 19, various criminal groups have kidnapped a total of 149 victims, more than double last year's total of 73. According to data from the PNP's Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management (DIDM), the number of kidnapping incidents has reached 82—almost a doubling from last year's 48. And there are still two months to go before the year is up. *(See table on this page.)*

"This is the worst that we have seen in (the) eight years that we have been involved in the anti-kidnapping campaign," Chinese-Filipino community leader Teresita Ang-See told the INQUIRER. "We have not seen it as bad as this one."

Ang-See is a member of the National Anti-Crime Commission and head of Kaisa, the kidnap watchdog group. She said an independent set of statistics jointly compiled by the Citizens Action Against Crime and the Movement for Restoration of Peace and Order paints an even darker picture. Her data show a total of 105 incidents and 225 victims as of Oct. 31.

But Mendoza said there was a reasonable explanation for the rise. "The reason that the statistics of kidnapping for ransom cases increased this year is because victims now trust the police. The families of the victims now cooperate with us," he told the INQUIRER. Thus more cases are being reported. *(See related story.)*

But Ang-See disputed Mendoza's claim.

"What is happening is the exact opposite. There is total lack of confidence and trust with the police now," she said.

In 1997, the worst year in terms of number of kidnapping incidents (159), the number of kidnap victims per official police records "only" reached 138.

No doubts

Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, appointed chief of the National Anti-Crime Commission Anti-KFR Task Force (Naktaf) only last Sept. 8, admitted that the number of incidents rose this year. "The number of cases has actually increased, no doubt about that," Ebdane told the INQUIRER.

"(Ang-See) is correct when she said that we have a problem because of the series of cases that transpired," Ebdane said. "But it does not mean that this kidnapping spree will go on."

"Practically, we solved all the cases that were reported to us," he added.

But DIDM chief Director Lucas Managuelod said Ang-See's description—that this year was the worst ever—was unfair, calling her comment "a sweeping statement."

"They based it on only one thing, the death of Connie Wong," he told the INQUIRER.

Wong, a Chinese-Filipino businesswoman and a sister-in-law of Robert Cheng, the owner of Uratex Foam Industries, was found dead, together with her police bodyguard, on Oct. 3, two days after the two were abducted.

According to Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, Wong was the first kidnap victim to die in the hands of kidnappers since 1996.

According to official police records, however, the number of kidnap victims killed this year alone stood at 11 as of Oct. 19—almost thrice last year's total of 4 and on the same level as all of 1997.

Managuelod seconded Mendoza's assertion that the rise in the numbers is due to greater police-civilian cooperation. "It is higher now compared to last year, because there is greater trust in the police. That's why it increased. Last year, only a few were reported because there was no trust," he said.

PNP documents show that as of Oct. 15, the police had secured the cooperation of the kidnap victims or their families in 48 out of 81 cases, or almost 60 percent of the total.

On Oct. 19, the day of the first interview with Mendoza, he told the INQUIRER that the police enjoyed the cooperation of the victims or their families in 16 out of 16 incidents involving foreign nationals, and in 30 out of 32 incidents involving Chinese-Filipino victims.

PNP stats

According to DIDM documents, May was the worst month in number of victims, with 30. Twenty of these were abducted by Abu Sayyaf bandits from the tony Dos Palmas resort in Palawan on May 27.

In number of incidents, September was the worst, with 12 kidnap-for-ransom cases, up from 11 in August. There were 23 victims kidnapped in September, up from 18 in August. The figures for October, as of Oct. 19, stood at 8 victims kidnapped in four separate incidents.

In the seven days between Sept. 27 and Oct. 2 alone, Mendoza told Metro Manila mayors and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority officials in a security briefing, five kidnappings for ransom were perpetrated.

In terms of what the PNP documents call "solution efficiency," the country's law enforcement agencies solved an average of about six cases a month. By "solved," the police means KFR incidents which have been either referred to government prosecutors or already filed in court.

As of Oct. 19, a full 50 of the 82 kidnapping incidents then on record were considered solved.

Real picture

But Ang-See says the real picture is much darker.

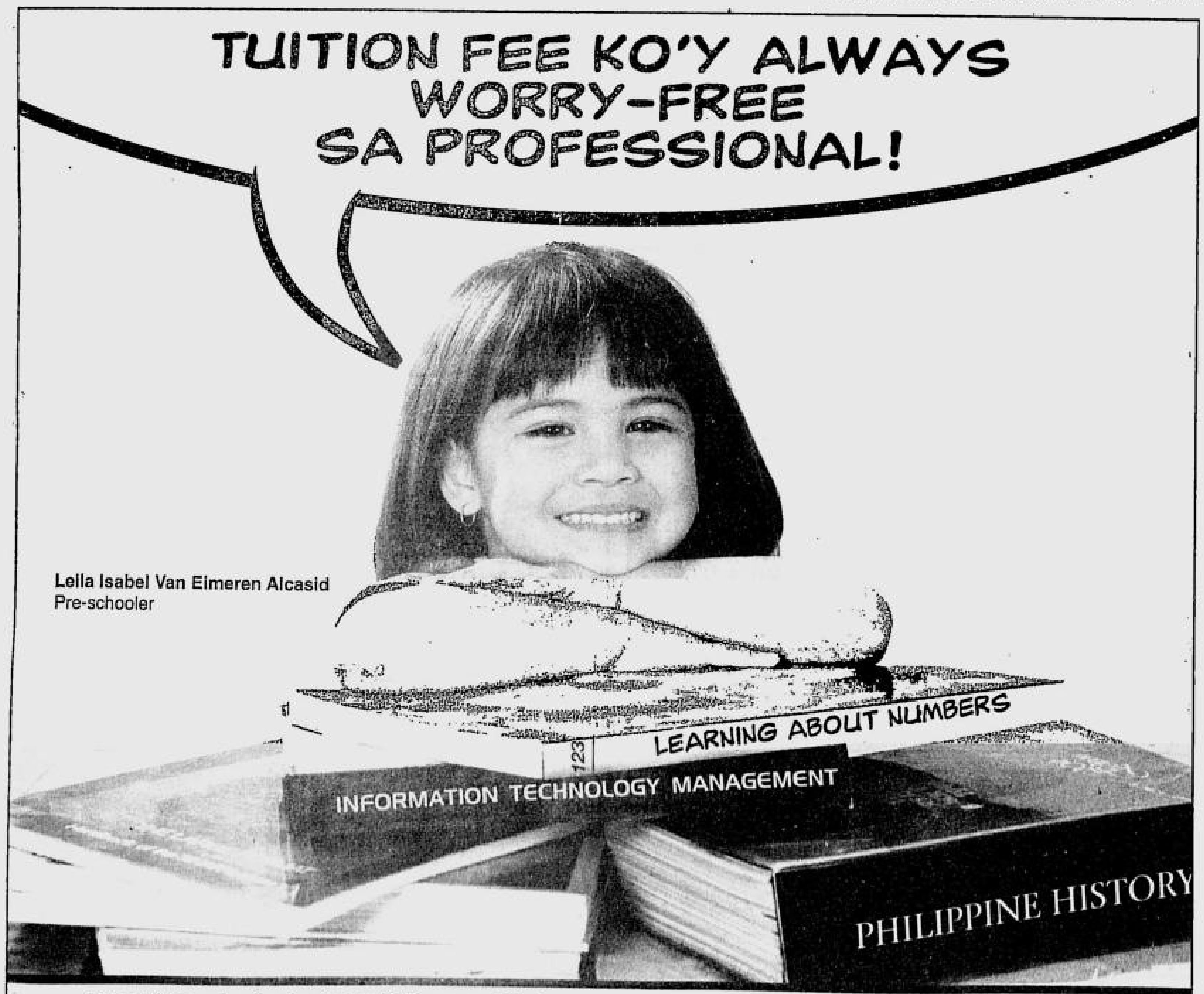
Her statistics show that the number of kidnapping incidents had hit 105 as of Oct. 31—up from 79 in all of 2000 and 76 in all of 1999. The number of victims has also risen dramatically, reaching 225—or six more than the 219 recorded for all of last year and two-thirds more than the 135 her group documented in 1999.

The basis for these numbers, Ang-See explained, is a combination of direct reports (kidnapping incidents reported directly to them) and media reports.

"Abductions reported to us we report to the police," Ang-See noted, adding ominously, "the figures only include abductions that have a ransom demand."

She said the President should ask her police generals to do much more than wage a PR campaign. "Praise releases" will not solve the problem, she said. They will only worsen it.

"(The police) are not going to solve the problem because they refuse to even admit that the problem is as bad as it is," Ang-See said. "In hiding the truth (they) clinch the suspicion that they cannot be trusted."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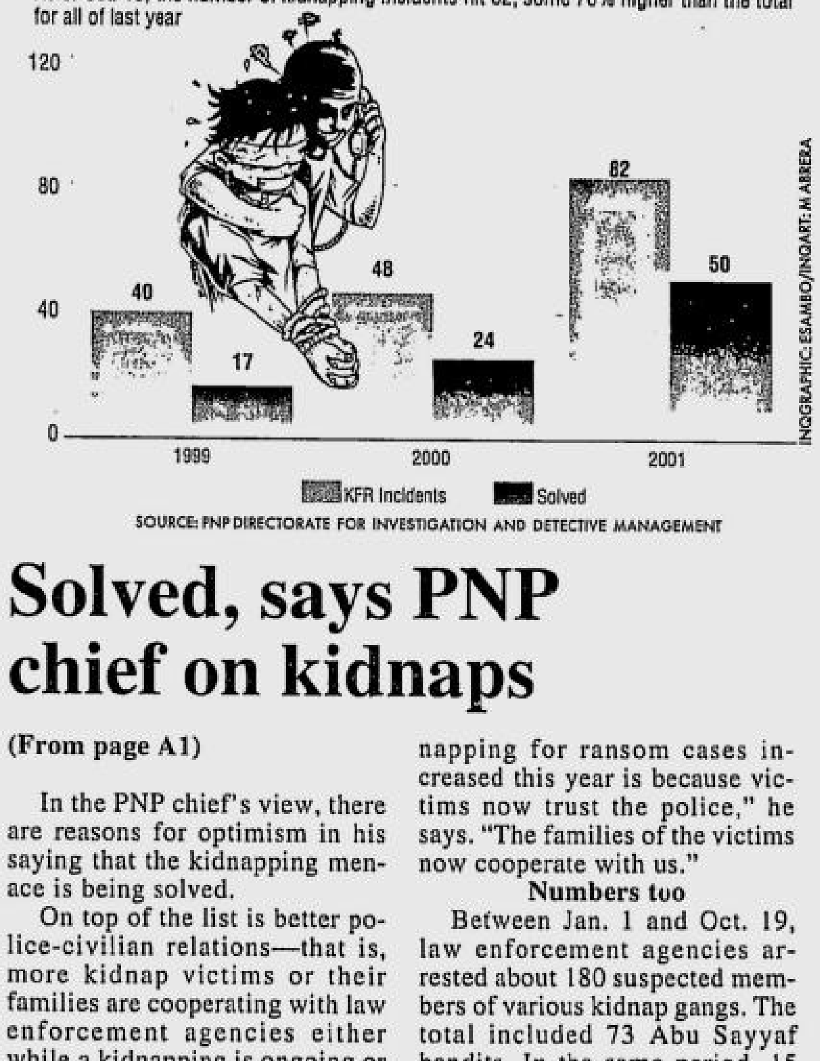
Kidnapping Surge

As of Oct. 19, the number of kidnapping incidents hit 82, some 70% higher than the total for all of last year



SOURCE: PNP DIRECTORATE FOR INVESTIGATION AND DETECTIVE MANAGEMENT

Solved, says PNP chief on kidnaps

(From page A1)

In the PNP chief's view, there are reasons for optimism in his saying that the kidnapping menace is being solved.

On top of the list is better police-civilian relations—that is, more kidnap victims or their families are cooperating with law enforcement agencies either while a kidnapping is ongoing or after, when government prosecutors must file a case in court.

"Contrary to the perception that they are not cooperative, they are very cooperative," Mendoza says. "They are already cooperating with us."

He rolls off the numbers from memory. Of the 16 foreigners who had been kidnapped as of Oct. 19, all 16 cooperated with the police. Of the 32 Chinese-Filipinos kidnapped, the families of 30 cooperated. *(See main story.)*

Documents from the PNP Directorate for Investigation and Detection Management show that, as of Oct. 15, the police and other law enforcement agencies secured the cooperation of the victims or the families involved in 48 out of 81 kidnapping incidents.

"What is needed is (more) collaboration," Mendoza says.

He stresses the need for cooperation after kidnap victims have been released. "We are a country of laws," he says, indicating that kidnappers can only be put behind bars if the victims and witnesses testify. "You can build up a case (only) if you have a complainant."

According to Mendoza, better police-civilian relations explain the statistical rise in both the number of kidnapping incidents and the number of victims. "The reason that the statistics of kidnapping for ransom cases increased this year is because victims now trust the police," he says. "The families of the victims now cooperate with us."

Numbers too

Between Jan. 1 and Oct. 19, law enforcement agencies arrested about 180 suspected members of various kidnap gangs. The total included 73 Abu Sayyaf bandits. In the same period, 15 kidnappers, including two Abu Sayyaf bandits, were killed in police or military operations.

Mendoza says some 78 kidnap groups have been identified, but adds that only "about 20" remain active. He is careful to make a distinction between the "traditional" kidnap victim and a "target of opportunity"—a lone person making an ATM withdrawal, for example, who presents what he calls "small-time" criminals an on-the-fly opportunity. "There are different kidnappings," he explains. The 20 remaining active kidnap groups prey on victims whose lifestyle routines are predictable and have been followed in detail.

Out of 149 kidnap victims, the number of victims classified as either rescued, released or escaped reached 138. The rest—11 in all, including Connie Wong, the sister-in-law of Robert Cheng of Uratex—were classified as killed.

Mendoza admits that kidnapping remains a serious concern for the PNP. "This (has been) a phenomenon since 1992," he says.

It is a situation complicated by limited funds. He is grateful to the President for pledging an additional P1 billion to pay for administrative costs and to buy new law-enforcement equipment.

But he says it isn't enough. "Security is actually an investment," he says

Restrictions on Chinese visitors eyed

By Michael Lim Ubac

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez is seeking stricter regulations on the entry of Chinese citizens into the country, particularly those coming from Xiamen, China.

The measures, which could include restrictions, would be implemented to combat the influx of Chinese involved in the drug trade and kidnapping-for-ransom.

Perez is flying today to China to ask Chinese top officials to share the burden of combating the drug menace in the country, which is now considered by government officials as a national security concern.

Perez said it was imperative that the country and China should work together to address the drug plague which, he said, "is an international menace that they should help curb."

Perez said most of the undocumented Chinese criminals who entered the country came from Xiamen or Fujian, formerly known as Amoy.

Perez issued the statement amid the discovery of one more shabu laboratory in Pasig City by the PNP-National Capital Region Police Office.

The raid on the "full-scale" shabu factory on 44 San Agustin St., Capitol Subdivision, confirmed intelligence reports that shabu is already manufactured locally.

Because it is more difficult for the drug syndicate based in China to smuggle into the country finished shabu, the syndicate had put up several drug laboratories here, according to Perez.

Thus, he said, the country had ceased to be a transshipment point for drug trafficking.

Perez is personally delivering a letter to Chinese Justice Minister Xiao Yang during a meeting at Guangzou City in Guandong province, China.

The city will play host to the Attorneys General's Meeting for Asia and Europe, which will start today and ends on Wednesday.

In a one-page letter, Perez raised serious concerns on the gravity of the drug problem, and asked China to share the responsibility in curbing the manufacture and trafficking of drugs.

"The Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and the recently signed extradition treaty between our two countries gave the opportunity for our officials to discuss issues of mutual concern, particularly in the area of mutual concern and criminal justice administration," he said.

Perez said that in the country's relentless effort to combat crimes at the national level, "we are alarmed by the volume of drugs seized and the number of Chinese nationals involved in kidnapping for ransom and drug manufacturing/trafficking activities in the Philippines. We feel this is a pressing and serious concern of our two governments."

He told Xiao that from 1998 to September 2000, about 170 Chinese were nabbed for drug trafficking or manufacturing.

As of June this year, court records showed that 42 Chinese have been convicted of drug charges, 14 of whom are now in the death row.

He said that for the same period, 1.9 billion grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) were seized from apprehended Chinese nationals.

"Just recently, a clandestine shabu laboratory was raided by law enforcers resulting in the arrest of seven Chinese nationals. Last September, Chinese nationals were also arrested for their participation in a kidnap-for-ransom case," Perez stressed.

Perez said in an interview that all of the Chinese who have been apprehended "admitted that they were taught to manufacture shabu in China."

"So they didn't acquire expertise on their own," Perez added.

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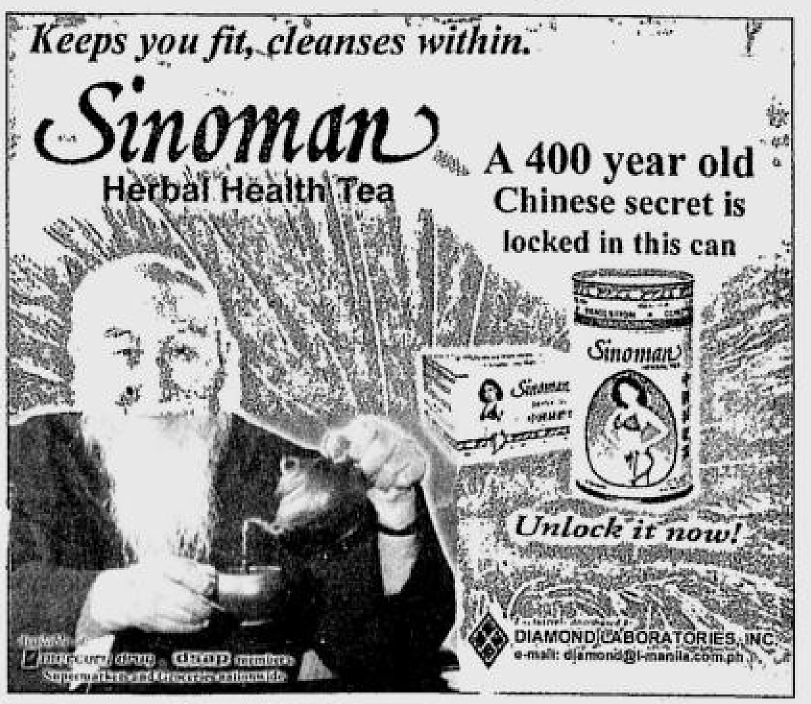

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2.2 million Pinoys are drug users

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE PHILIPPINES has up to 2.2 million full-fledged drug users, helped by around 500,000 drug pushers who bring the drug menace to the communities, the National Drug Law Enforcement and Prevention Coordinating (DEP) Center reported yesterday.

Chief Supt. Miguel Coronel, executive director of the DEP Center, said results of a Social Weather Stations survey commissioned by the DEP Center in July 2001 showed that a majority of those who admitted having used illegal drugs were aged 25-34 and belonged to the Class D.

The same SWS survey, conducted from July 9 to 27 among 1,200 adult respondents, showed that 51 percent of Filipinos now consider the drug menace as a "very serious problem."

Residents of Metro Manila feel more strongly that the drug menace has reached very serious proportions than those living in other parts of the country. Survey results showed 41 percent of Metro Manilans view the drug problem as "very serious" but only 33 percent of those living elsewhere in Luzon feel the same.

Coronel said only 39 percent in the Visayas and 33 percent in Mindanao regard the drug menace as "very serious."

Even Director General Leandro Mendoza, chief of the Philippine National Police, himself was alarmed that the drug menace has become entrenched in urban communities following the discovery of three shabu laboratories this year.

Busted were shabu laboratories in Quezon City last March, in Lipa City in May, and in Pasig City last Tuesday.

Mendoza said new techniques in the manufacture of shabu have been devised such that "cooking" of the drug no longer emits an acidic smell.

"Before shabu laboratories were set up in islands because you could smell the acid as far 150 kilometers away," Mendoza said.

"But now, the cooking process is odorless because they no longer use ephredine," he said.

Mendoza said the raid on the shabu laboratory in Pasig last Tuesday revealed that liquid materials other than ephredine was now being used in the manufacture of shabu.

The laboratory was run by Chinese chemists, one of whom was arrested during the raid. Eight other Chinese were arrested along with three Filipinas.

The suspects identified their leader as one Cai Hontian alias Huai Ia, sai to be a doctor and chemist. Police are trying to track him down.

GSIS pensioners to get P518M gift

CHRISTMAS will be merrier for 187,154 pensioners of the Government Service Insurance System all over the country with the allocation of P518 million for their cash gift.

GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia said the P518 million to be given as additional benefit to pensioners this year is 22 percent higher than last year's paid-out allocation of P423.33 million.

The cash gift, usually given before Christmas, is equal to one month regular pension up to a maximum of P12,600 for old age/retirement disability pensions; P6,300 for basic survivorship pensions and P1,260 for each dependent pensioner, Garcia said in a press statement.

Every year, he said, the GSIS allocates a substantial amount of its social insurance fund for the cash gift, which is an additional benefit to pensioners.

The GSIS board earlier approved the grant of pension loans to old-age and disability GSIS pensioners. The Pension Loan Program, Garcia said, was conceived to provide a loan window for pensioners who usually fall prey to loan sharks.

Under the program, qualified borrowers may avail themselves of up to three months the equivalent of their regular pension but not over P20,000. A low interest rate of 8 percent per annum is deducted from the proceeds of the loan which is payable in one year through automatic deduction from the monthly pension. The loan is renewable after full payment.

Fast becoming a popular source of immediate cash for pensioners, the program is also considered the best loan program for pensioners. The loan is processed in one hour or less, GSIS said.

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   2.3 Home Renovation
   2.4 Re-financing of existing Loans with other banks
   2.5 Multi-purpose Loan
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P 4M to P 5,999,999.99	Bedroom Set
P 6M to P 7,999,999.99	Dining Set
P 8M to P 9,999,999.99	Living Room Set
P 10M and above	50.8 cm (20") TV plus VCD Player

5. Claim certificates will be released together with the loan documents after each booking.
6. Gifts can be claimed at designated redemption centers.
7. Redemption of prizes is until January 31, 2002. After such date, unclaimed gifts will be forfeited in favor of BPI Family Bank with prior DTI approval.
8. Should the client require delivery of appliances / furniture, delivery fees will be charged to the client's account.
9. In case client's gift items are temporarily out of stock, client will be advised by the redemption center as to when specific item will be available or client may choose another item of equivalent value.
10. This offer cannot be combined with other ongoing offers of BPI / BPI Family Bank.
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12. In the event of lost claim certificate, rewards will be forfeited in favor of BPI Family Bank.
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By Dona Pazzibugan

HEADS will roll if there is a repeat of the five-hour long Luzon-wide power failure that occurred last Sunday, President Macapagal-Arroyo warned energy officials yesterday.

Ms Macapagal found the blackout "inexcusable" since the blackout was not caused by lack of electrical power, but by a "technical problem."

The National Power Corp. traced last Sunday's blackout to a tripping of the Sual power plant. The same plant also caused a Luzon-wide power failure last year after jellyfish clogged up the plant.

Ms Macapagal met Energy Secretary Vicente Perez and Napocor officials in Malacañang yesterday.

"The President gave very specific instructions to the energy secretary and the Napocor president. She said she thinks that our power system has enough capacity, is modernized enough at this point, that power blackouts of the scale that happened last Sunday is inexcusable," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

"(She) specifically asked the Napocor to talk closely with the operator of the Sual plant to find out really what's been the problem because this system breakdown in the Sual plant occurred twice already in two years," he added.

Asked whether that means that heads will roll in case of another blackout, Tiglao replied: "I guess that goes without saying."

The blackout, which occurred a couple of hours after Ms Macapagal left for Brunei, fanned coup rumors which had been raging on for the last two weeks.

After power returned to most of Luzon, Ms Macapagal expressed relief that "nothing untoward occurred during the dark."

Napocor officials yesterday presented Malacañang with a list of its short-, medium-, and long-term solutions to avoid another blackout.

Its short-term solution calls for the completion of the rehabilitation of the Kalayaan power plant by the end of November and the completion of the Casecnan power plant by the end of the year.

The Kalayaan power plant, one of the country's power plants, also tripped last Sunday and affected the entire Luzon power system.

The medium-term solution calls for providing "black-start" capability to Sual and Pagbilao power plants.

The long-term solution calls for upgrading the transmission lines in Batangas, Laguna by 2004 and the construction of Kalayaan 3 and 4 power plants by 2004.

During the meeting, Ms Macapagal reportedly identified one of the problems to be the fact that when a power plant like Sual shuts down, the rest of the system is affected.

MACAPAGAL

Napocor officials reportedly assured the President that "by the end of this month, they'll be doing all they can to ensure that breakdown in one plant doesn't create a chain reaction in the entire system," Tiglao said.

RP textile techniques in lecture

RATOR Marian Pastor Roces will give an overview of Philippine traditional textile techniques, with comparative observations on Indonesian textile traditions at a lecture on Saturday, Nov. 10, at the National Museum.

Roces' talk will introduce the audience to the tight relationship between method and notions of quality in the Philippine and Indonesian aesthetic traditions.

The lecture, the 11th in the Lectures 2001 series, will be held at the Tambunting-Villonco Hall, 4th floor, Museum of the Filipino People (former Finance Bldg). Registration starts at 9 a.m. while the lecture proper begins at 10 a.m.

Tuaño, 68

FE Esperanza "Inday" Tuaño of Ozamiz City died at 11:30 p.m. on Wednesday at the National Kidney Institute in Quezon City. She was 68.

She is survived by brothers Ponciano Tuaño Jr., Marianito and Norberto; sister Patricia Tuaño-Balucan; in-laws, nephews, nieces and grandchildren.

Her remains lie at the Arlington Memorial Homes on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City and will be brought to Ozamiz City for interment this weekend. Internment schedule will be announced later.

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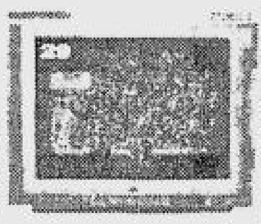

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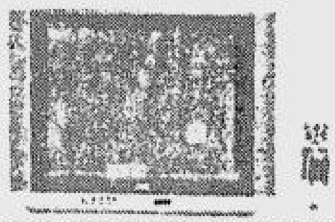

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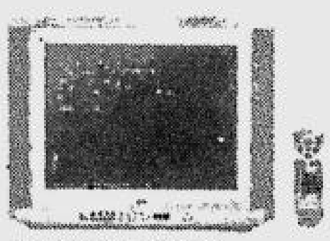

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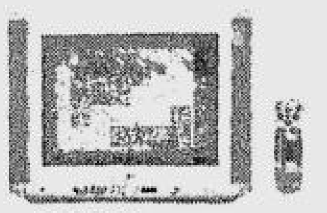

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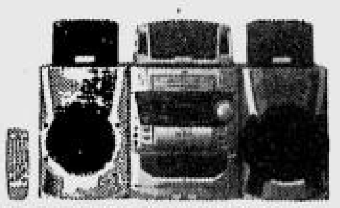

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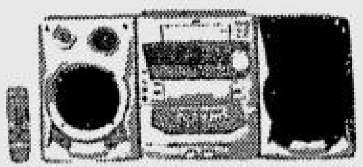

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Per DTI-NCR Permit # A3-716 Series of 2001.

Now, it's jobless in Manila

BY NORMAN BORDADORA

FROM sleepless in Seattle, to jobless in Manila?

The two Filipino pilots, who said they were wrongfully suspected of being terrorists in Seattle, fear that they have already lost the lucrative employment waiting for them in Nigeria after they were deported to the Philippines for being alleged biological hazards.

"Who would want to take us into their company when we were already exposed internationally as suspected terrorists," said Wel S. Come in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER.

Come and fellow pilot Bernie Crisostomo yesterday heeded the call of the Department of Foreign Affairs to coordinate with the government agency to hear their side and come up with whatever assistance they still might need.

"Aviation companies would definitely think twice about hiring our services," Come said.

"We have yet to receive any phone calls from our prospective employer in Nigeria. We have yet to hear from them since the incident in Seattle," he said.

Come said it was Assistant Secretary Vic Lecaros who saw them at the DFA yesterday. Lecaros told the pilots that he would take up the matter with Vice President Teofisto Guingona, the foreign affairs secretary.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the government could not have prevented the two pilots' deportation since the county didn't have a consulate in Seattle. The DFA said it learned of their ordeal when they were already on their way home after being deported.

"We asked the government's assistance to help us clear our names with the US government and help us get back our US visas," Come said.

"Last week was not the first time we went to the United States. We hope the American authorities would see that we have been to their country and back before and nothing untoward," the pilot said.

Come said he and Crisostomo have been in the United States before for various training courses in aviation.

Come said he still has some savings left and a small business to tide his family through but "being a pilot is really my gainful employment."

He said he has a wife and four children to support, the eldest being 9 years old and the youngest, just one year of age.

"It's a nightmare. It was just a prank that got out of hand," Come said.

He said he has no known enemies, who could have deliberately called US authorities to prevent them from coming into the United States.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, November 9, 2001
Dedication of St. John Lateran

1st Reading:	**Ezk 47:1-2, 8-9, 12**
2nd Reading:	**1 Cor 3:9-11, 16-17**
Gospel:	**Jn 2:13-22**

As the Passover of the Jews was at hand, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the Temple court he found merchants selling oxen, sheep and doves, and money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the Temple court, together with the oxen and sheep. He knocked over the tables of the money-changers, scattering the coins, and ordered the people selling doves, "Take all this away and stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!"

His disciples recalled the words of Scripture: *Zeal for your House devours me as a fire.*

The Jews then questioned Jesus, "Where are the miraculous signs which give you the right to do this?" And Jesus said, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then replied, "The building of this temple has already taken forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?"

Actually, Jesus was referring to the temple of his body. Only when he had risen from the dead did his disciples remember these words; then they believed both the Scripture and the words Jesus had spoken.

Commentary

Jesus is here described doing a dramatic action judging the temple system. He drives the sellers of animals and money-changers out of the area. Sacrifice requires animal victims to be brought to the altar and slaughtered as offering to God. The money-changers are there for pilgrims who want to change their foreign currency with native coins. Foreign coins were not allowed as offering in the temple. The action of Jesus is clearly a criticism of the Jewish sacrificial system. It threatens the Jewish authorities in charge of the temple. For them, temple sacrifice means power and wealth. So, they demand from Jesus a sign for the authority of his action. And the sign Jesus gives is his death and resurrection.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (SPECIAL CONTRACTS: LEASE)—Rights of sublessee—A sublessee can invoke no right superior to that of his sublessor. The sublessee's right, if any, is to demand reparation for damages from his sublessor, should the latter be at fault. The sublessees can only assert such right of possession as could have been granted them by their sublessor, their right of possession depending entirely upon that of the latter. Considering that the lessor and real owner of the property manifested objections to the improvements introduced by petitioners and the subsequent termination of the lease contract between the lessor-owner and the lessee-sublessor, petitioners, being mere sublessees, are not in a position to assert any right to remain on the land. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Pardo, First Division, Shin v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 113627, February 6, 2001]

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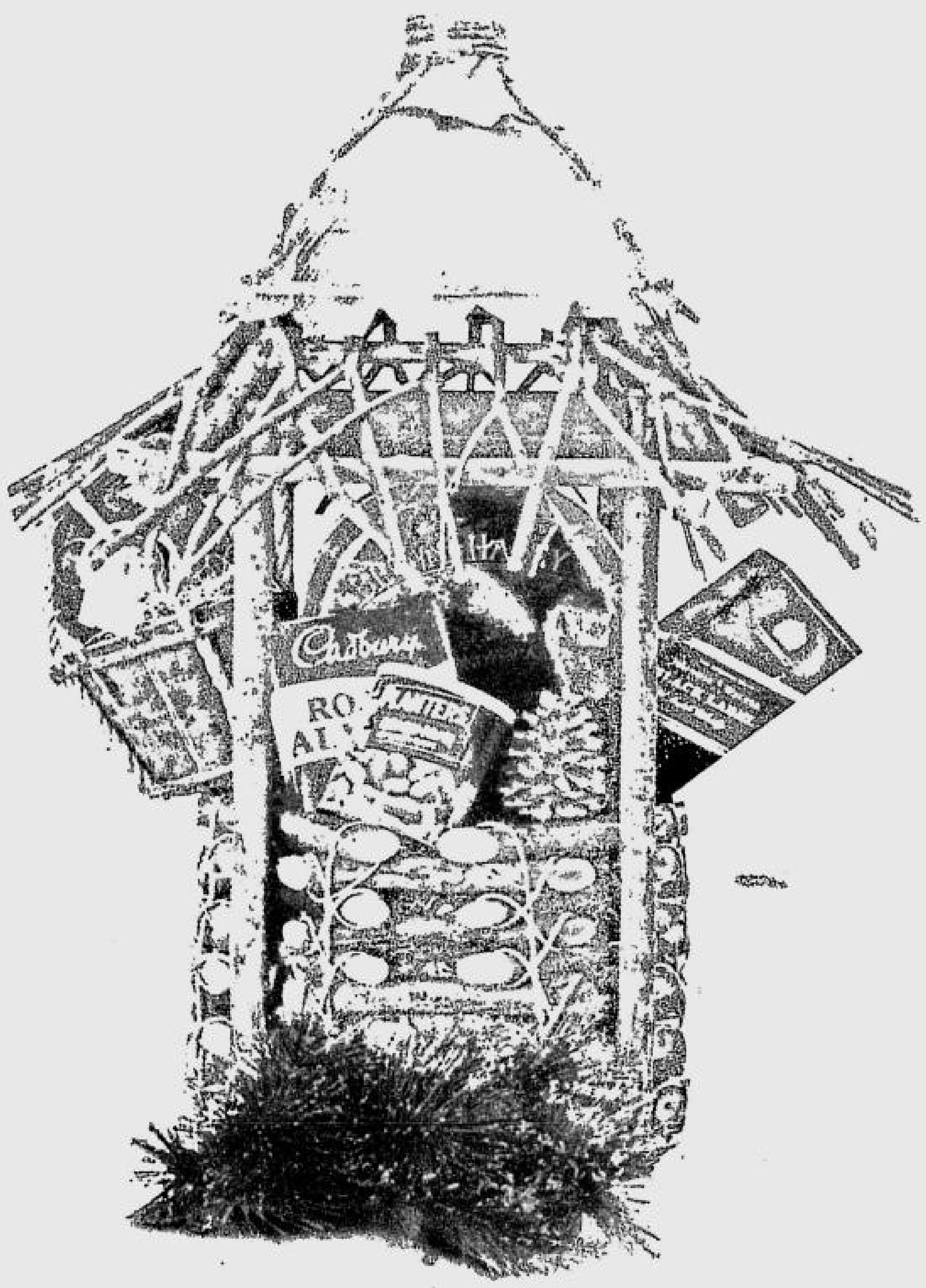

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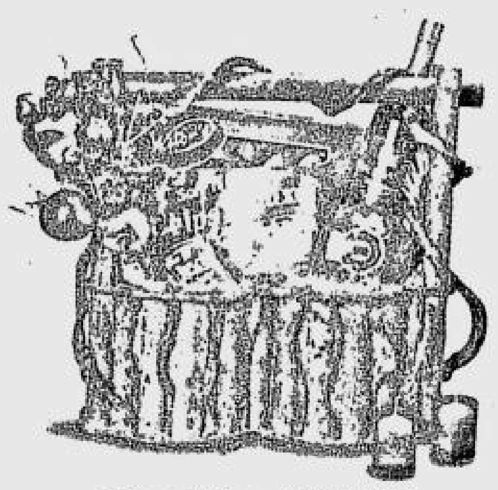

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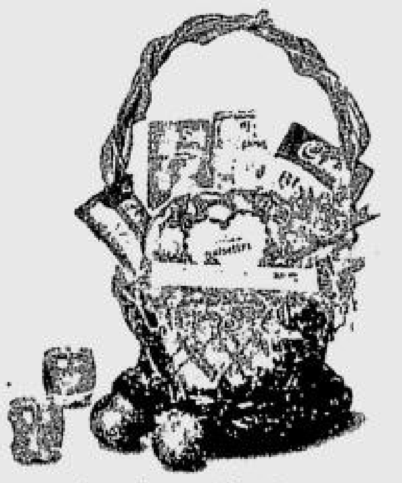

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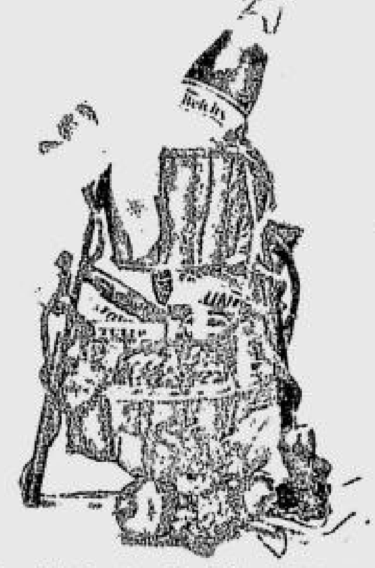

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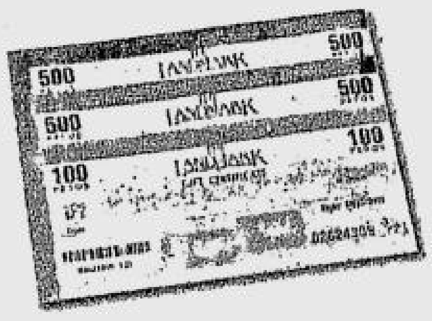

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EDITORIALS

Dirty linen

WHEN studied closely, the sensational charges that Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy levied against his superior, Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena, can be reduced to this: He had been asked to resign, not from the anti-graft court, but from his chairmanship of the court's third division.

"He did not say in black and white that 'I want you to resign' but I am not so stupid (as) not to get the message," Badoy, the chair of the third division hearing the plunder case against deposed President Joseph Estrada, said last Sunday. "(It was) unmistakable."

Garchitorena has confirmed that he did indeed meet with Badoy and the other members of the third division, Associate Justices Teresita Leonardo-De Castro and Ricardo Ilarde, on Oct. 16, but denied exerting pressure on Badoy to resign. Instead, he pointed to Ilarde as the one who asked Badoy to consider taking a leave of absence.

On this point, there is an irreconcilable difference in their accounts: Badoy said on Sunday that "Garchitorena was trying to enlist the support of my colleagues in the third division…as far as I can see, they were not biting." Garchitorena said the following day, however, that it was De Castro and Ilarde who had complaints about Badoy's performance, and that it was in fact Ilarde who had "suggested" that he go on leave. For good measure, the presiding justice released a copy of a letter he had sent the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court even before Badoy's extraordinary news conference last Sunday, detailing several complaints (absenteeism, lying about his whereabouts and incompetence) against the chair of the third division.

The airing of dirty linen in public is offensive to the senses whether the underthings belong to judges or to ordinary citizens. Indeed, judges have a higher responsibility not to say or do anything that might place them in disrepute. The maxim is clear: Judges are not only supposed to be impartial; they must appear to be impartial. More than the office of the President itself, the office of the judge relies on what political scientists call mystique to get its job done. A judge—whether on the level of a municipal circuit trial court or in the rarefied reaches of the Supreme Court—must not only do the right thing; he or she must be seen to do the right thing.

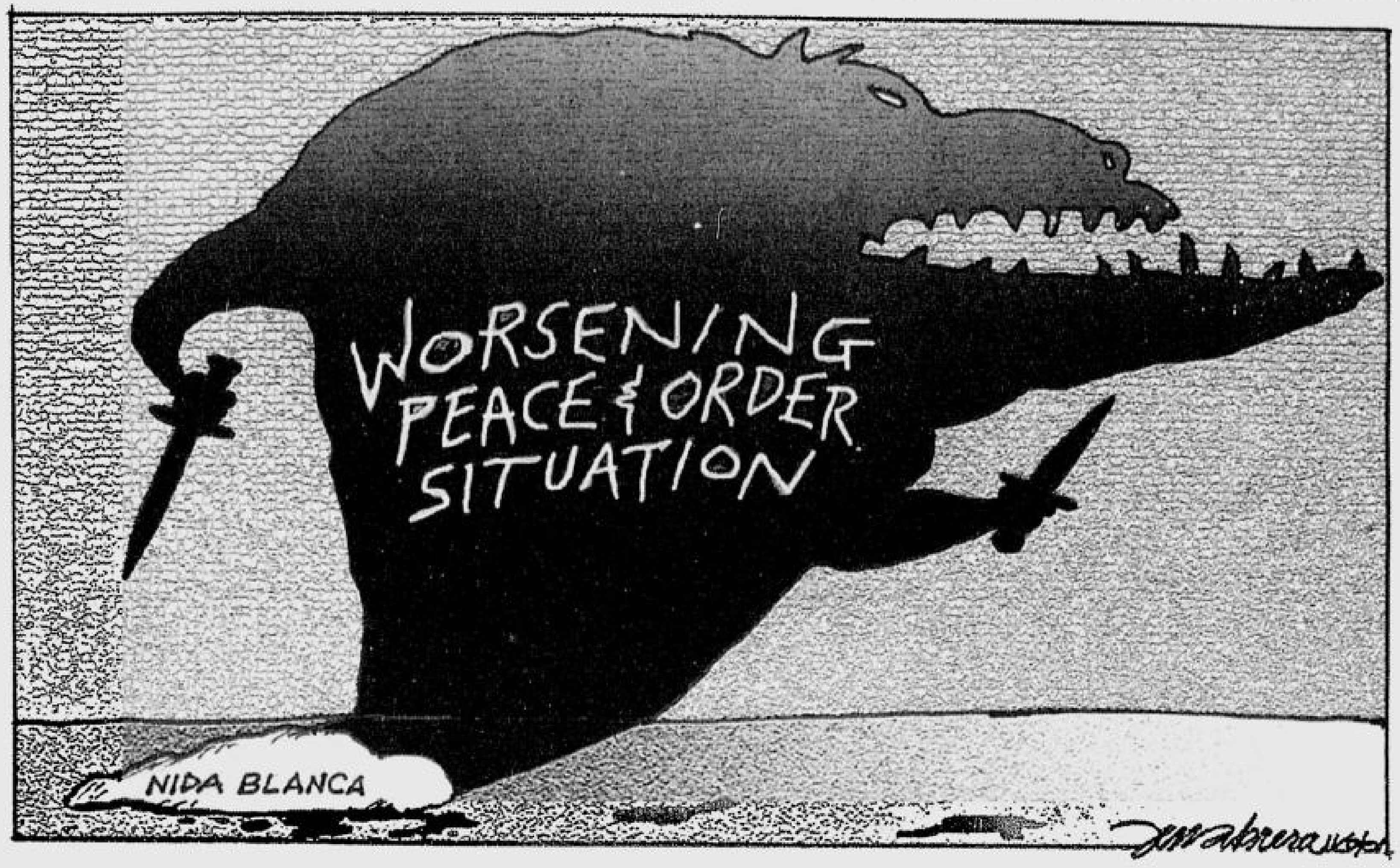
The public airing of scandalous charges is an assault on this principle. We should not confuse this with the idea of accountability. If, say, evidence of corruption exists, a judge should file the appropriate charge against his colleague or indeed any officer of the court. One important reason the Supreme Court enjoys high public esteem these days is precisely its readiness to suspend judges or disbar lawyers found guilty of misconduct.

But if evidence exists, a judge should not simply call a press conference and rely on the media to get the word around. In the two days after his conference and before Chief Justice Hilario Davide issued his gag order, Badoy issued ominous statements, saying, for instance, he would be the first to testify against Garchitorena. Fine, but has he filed the appropriate charge that will allow him to take the stand? Badoy must also stop cloaking himself in the robes of the pious. His religious devotion is not in question, but surely it is not a gauge of the truth of his assertion against Garchitorena or of his readiness to handle the most explosive trial in Philippine history.

Making matters worse

GARCHITORENA has only made matters worse, essentially staging a counterattack through the media by issuing dramatic statements and releasing the now controversial letter of complaints against Badoy. Even after Davide's order, Garchitorena reserved his right to issue statements to "defend himself." Now is as good a time as any to remind him of Justice Malcolm's famous words, that public opprobrium can and must be "eased with the balm of a clear conscience."

Tomorrow, the two justices will air their differences before the most trusted man in the country, Chief Justice Davide. As things go, this meeting comes a little late; the damage to the anti-graft court has been done. Its reputation can still be salvaged, but not by a mere statement from the high tribunal about, say, misunderstanding between colleagues or reconciliation between judges. One or the other lied. He must take the consequences.



Where was Nida Blanca hours before she was killed?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IS it wise to gag two Sandiganbayan justices giving out information which the people have the right to know not only because they are the employers paying their salaries but also because the topic, the quality of the administration of justice, concerns them?

No doubt the purpose of Chief Justice Hilario Davide's gag order to Sandiganbayan Justices Francis Garchitorena and Anacleto Badoy is to prevent more embarrassing information from coming and eroding the people's faith in our own justice system, but isn't secrecy and the resulting rumors and speculations that such secrecy nurtures more damaging? Truth never hurt anybody except the guilty. But secrecy is the refuge of scoundrels. Secrecy allows the guilty to go scot-free.

But of course the first reaction of the Supreme Court is secrecy. Most of its deliberations are made in private even if they concern the life and liberty of common people who have the right to know how and why they are condemned. Deliberations regarding judges and justices are even more private. It is as if the Supreme Court is a secret society like the Klu Klux Klan. Or an old boys' club what protects its own.

It is obvious that powerful forces are moving in the Sandiganbayan that may derail the administration of justice. If the Garchitorena-Badoy tiff is glossed over and the two come out of Davide's chamber looking like life-long friends, these powerful forces will quietly continue to derail the justice system. Everything may be spic and span outside but inside, these forces are eating up like termites the foundations of our system of justice. Better to dig out the termite's nest and expose it to the light of day to slay the queen termite.

* * *

And, is it wise to allow retired justices of the Supreme Court to represent litigants in courts of law like what retired Chief Justice Andres Narvasa and retired Associate Justice Serafin Cuevas are doing for former President Estrada? Retired justices have very generous retirement pay; they need not work anymore. That's what retirement pay is for. If senators and congressmen are banned from practicing law while they are members of Congress to avoid conflicts of interest, why not retired Supreme Court justices? If Cabinet members are required to give up their holdings in private companies, also to avoid conflicts of interest, why not retired Supreme Court justices?

There is still no law that bans it, but there is conflict of interest when a retired Supreme Court justice represents a client in a court trial. I have faith in the integrity and independence of justices and judges, but we have to admit that they are only human. And the reputation of the Supreme Court attaches to a retired justice and exerts a tremendous influence on very human magistrates. When the evidence is so lopsided in favor of one side, there may not be any problem. But when it is a borderline case that can go either way, the influence of the Supreme Court justice tips the scales of justice.

Besides, camaraderie among judges and justices is a human virtue or vice, depending on how you look at it. Even if there is no direct *pakiusap*, friendship again tips the scales in favor of the retired justice. And don't forget that many judges are overwhelmed by the weight of Supreme Court rulings which extends to the justices even after they retire.

If we want Lady Justice to be really blindfolded and the scales she holds to be really balanced, I think it is proper to let retired justices to do just that: retire.

* * *

Here is food for thought on the murder of Nida Blanca:

The actress was last seen taking the elevator down shortly after 5 p.m. on Nov. 6. She was found dead inside her car on the sixth floor of the Atlanta Center at 8 a.m. the next day. Autopsy showed that she died at about 4 or 5 a.m. that day. There is an 11- or 12-hour gap between the last time she was seen and the time she was killed. Where was she all that time?

Did she go somewhere else or did she go back up to her office at the MTRCB? It couldn't be the latter because her friends were frantically calling other friends and the police after they missed her. One of the first places they probably called was her office. But obviously nobody answered from there, so she wasn't there. So where was she all that time? Was she with the killer?

The pathologist also said she had undigested food in her stomach. That means she had dinner before she was killed. Where did she take dinner? If it was in a restaurant, she would have been noticed by the waiter or other diners. If she had companions, they should recognize him, her or them. If one of them is the killer, the waiter or diners could identify him.

A television report Wednesday night had an informant, face darkened, saying that Nida's driver had a violent temper and took drugs. He had tried to borrow money from Nida but was refused, the informant said. Could this be the reason for the murder perpetrated by "the very angry killer"?

Not necessarily. But the police should invite the driver.

Pranks

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

MY heart goes out to the two pilots who were detained by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service and the FBI last week on suspicion of carrying anthrax bacteria into the United States. No one knows who tipped the INS that the two were bioterrorists—or why. Bernardo Crisostomo, one of the pilots, thinks it might have been a prank by some Filipino. He can think of no other explanation for it. Well, if he is right, it is one very sick joke.

The two were going to the United States to get a refresher course in flying in Kansas preparatory to going to Nigeria to work there as pilots. You do not need to have experienced the hassles of traveling abroad, and especially of going through US Immigration, to imagine the absolute terror the two men must have felt during their ordeal. Quite apart from the utter humiliation of it.

Shortly after the plane—a Northwest Airlines one—landed in Seattle, US Immigration and FBI agents boarded it and handcuffed the two after ascertaining their identities. They then led them down the plane that way. Picture yourself in that situation, the world looking at you in contempt and outrage, and you yourself not knowing why you were being treated that way, and you will understand why after that the two men lost all interest in pursuing their contracts in Nigeria.

Picture yourself further being told by the look-alikes of Elliot Ness in the detention room at the airport that you were being held for trying to slip in anthrax bacteria to the United States, and that they know this because someone had tipped them off about it. You know the United States has become paranoid about people coming from countries with presumed Muslim terrorists, you know the United States has become paranoid about biological warfare, and you know the United States has become even more paranoid about foreigners who go there to enroll in its flying schools. And you wonder, as Crisostomo did: What if someone had pushed the prank further and put something inside your suitcase?

"Traumatized" doesn't quite capture what the two must have felt. That is the stuff that happens only in nightmares. The two were eventually released when their interrogators realized the tip was a hoax. But this is far from being a case of "all's well that ends well."

Crisostomo himself isn't blaming the US authorities for their ordeal. "They were just doing their job," he says. Maybe. But I don't know that those authorities would have acted with the same dutifulness, or zeal, if they had an anonymous tip about a couple of Britons or Frenchmen or Germans bringing anthrax to the United States aboard a Northwest Airlines flight. Would they have handcuffed them in plain view of the world, and led them like criminals to the interrogation room simply on that basis?

But let us grant that the US authorities were merely being paranoid and not at all indulging in racial stereotyping, or "profiling," as African-Americans themselves have accused authorities of doing. Now where is the justice, or the mere common sense, in their canceling the US visas of the two men? After grilling them, the FBI and INS discovered they were innocent. The reasonable course would have been to apologize profusely, offer restitution or the very least assistance after the monumental inconvenience, and send them on their way. But, no, after finding them innocent, the FBI and the INS revoked their 10-year visas and deported them. Last time we looked, the United States still presumed people to be innocent until proven guilty. Certainly, it presumed people to be innocent after being proven innocent. The attack on New York has truly claimed more victims than the people it buried under the rubble.

By no means can that be shrugged off as the US authorities merely doing their job. Here is the part where you really ask if the FBI and INS would have done that to a couple of Britons, Frenchmen or Germans.

From the other end, Well Come, or his sister (Come remains in a state of shock), has every reason to blame Philippine officials for doing the opposite, which is not doing their job. They were nowhere to be found when the two were grilled at the interrogation room in Seattle, they were nowhere to be found when the two were sent back, they were nowhere to be found when the two landed in Manila. Not a word of protest, not a word of sympathy, not a word of care.

I can understand that our embassy officials would have been powerless to stop the US authorities from handcuffing the two Filipinos and interrogating them—these are abnormal times. But they could not have been powerless to protest the two men being deported after having been found to have committed no crime. At the very least, they could have made a fuss over it. That is what they are there for. They are not there to socialize, they are there to look after the welfare of their compatriots. No wonder our OFWs have been bitterly complaining about our embassies. If those embassies can leave a couple of Filipino pilots to the wolves, they can do that to hundreds of Filipino maids.

No, this is by no means a case of "all's well that ends well." It can only end well when Crisostomo and Come get back their US visas, along with an apology from the US Embassy, and when the Filipino officials in Seattle are recalled, or deported, whichever comes first.

There is one last thing that needs to be done here. And that is to ferret out the prankster who caused all this trouble. Surely there cannot be many people who would have known Crisostomo and Come were leaving on that flight and were going to a flying school (that might have been the joke), and who would have access to the INS. Here is one case where we would not mind our own immigration officials and the NBI conducting an interrogation with the Inquisitorial zeal of their US counterparts.

Once the culprit is caught, Crisostomo and Come may play a prank on him in turn. They may make the key to his cell door disappear.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

On the brink

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

RAUL Concepcion, chair of the Federation of Philippine Industries, is a well-meaning man whose passion to do good for the country is beyond reproach. Like most men of good intentions, his zeal drives him to expound contentious, if not unrealistic, proposals. One such proposal was his call, at a press conference the other day, to use the national economic summit on Nov. 26 as a forum to examine the issue of whether our "freewheeling democracy and press are a deterrent to economic growth."

Concepcion seems to blame this phenomenon for the decline in our economic performance, characterized by fits and starts or, to use a favorite economic term, a cycle of boom and bust over the past 50 years. "We have achieved very little since the end of World War II because we engage too much in politics and too little in good government," he said. "This is the reason why we have a very poor performance."

Concepcion seeks to expand the agenda of the summit beyond the matrix of formulating a national consensus for economic recovery during the next three years, terminating in the 2004 presidential elections. The political parties, leaders of Congress, the private business sector, the NGOs, the trade unions, the peasant organizations and civil society groups have been invited to the summit.

When the administration issued the call, it did not envisage anything more than a short-term response to break the spell of contraction cast by first the 1997 Asian economic crisis and aggravated by the economic shocks of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

Given this framework, the summit may not accomplish the goal of drawing an agenda for economic recovery if Concepcion's approach, that addresses the structural causes of our economic malaise, were adopted. Concepcion's agenda is a recipe for plunging the summit into an open-ended philosophical debate over the flaws of Philippine democracy, including those of one of its key institutions, the press. The potential for chaos of using the summit as a venue for soul-searching on where we have gone wrong, causing us to be the economic laggard of Asia, can reduce the summit into a debating club ending with tons of words but with no consensus.

This does not, however, preclude us from taking Concepcion's concerns seriously. Concepcion flirts with the idea of the exercise by the President of special presidential powers to clamp down on the "freewheeling" political culture of Philippine democracy, a culture that emphasizes conflict and adversarial confrontation over consensus.

Others point out that Concepcion's concerns echo those of Lee Kuan Yew, who in a visit to Manila during the Ramos administration, shocked the administration by slamming the exuberance of Philippine democracy, resulting in political gridlock and leading to "undisciplined and disorderly conditions...inimical to development." At the time, Lee seemed to have argued that the authoritarian regime model, that curtailed political rights and emphasized social discipline, was the critical variable to development. Lee was speaking on behalf of Asian authoritarian models, which, coincidentally were also enjoying phenomenal growth rates. The Philippines represented the democratic, if often unruly, model. The economic recovery and high economic growths of the Ramos presidency provided ammunition to the counterargument that under a democracy growth rates can also be accelerated.

We forget that Lee was speaking from the context of a Confucian social culture that favored consensus over confrontational debate, and thus, conflict-driven Filipinos read his message out of Singapore's context. When he delivered his lecture, the business community applauded it, and it is possible that Concepcion's observations have a resonance among businessmen who are by now sick and tired of the political circuses, uncertainties over the tenure of Philippine democratic governments and the roller-coaster performance of the economy.

Concepcion's remarks echo a yearning for stability, predictability and continuity and apparently also a fatigue over endless debates that place little value on consensus and a sense of national community.

As usual, the press has come under fire as partly responsible for the grid lock; it is being blamed for its emphasis on scandal, conflict and the sensational aspects of news. Admittedly, there is much to be desired in shifting the accent of the press from the more dramatic aspects of the news to the more contextual approach that seeks to explain the complex dimensions of events. But the press cannot be taken in isolation of the total political, cultural and social environment of Philippine society.

The press is a mirror of what we are—our virtues, our strengths, as well as our blemishes. The press reflects the events produced by our political culture that reeks with corruption, that requires astronomical financing to run an election and elect officials democratically, and that has allowed ignorant and incompetent people to scale the highest peaks of power through the mechanism of popular elections.

These are the conditions that Concepcion and his cohorts in the business community deplore. The prescription for fostering a political culture that gives priority to consensus and a sense of national community is to use extraordinary powers to curb the excesses of a "freewheeling democracy and press." We allowed Ferdinand Marcos to curb these excesses and what we got in exchange was freewheeling, unbridled corruption and abuse of power.

But we are walking on the edge of the moment when we will have to decide where the individual's right to argue and promote his interests at the expense of the interests of all others end and where the interests of the larger community begin. The nation is disintegrating politically and economically, and big business will not be spared the test of whether it will put its money where its mouth is. That test will not be settled in a debating marathon. It can be bloody.

'Galawgaw' forever

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

TO FILIPINOS who grew up in the '70s, Nida Blanca will always be "Marsha," patient, loving yet also feisty wife to Dolphy's John Puruntong (who gave the name to that fashion abomination "puruntong shorts") in the long-running and beloved sitcom "John en Marsha."

But for those of my generation and older, Nida Blanca will always be "Galawgaw," the title of one of her early films, in which she cemented her screen persona as a hoyden, brash and boisterous, forever getting into scrapes, ready to take on any opponent. The tomboyish Nida found her foil in Nestor de Villa, smooth and urbane, polished in manner and flummoxed by this creature who shatters every stereotype about the "proper" young lady. When the "*galawgaw*" and the college man crossed social barriers and ended up as lovers, it was more than a storybook ending. It was a social statement, a breaching of class divides that in the '50s, the heyday of the "Nida-Nestor" movies, were still very much in force.

I got my "Nida-Nestor" fix second-hand, not through the movies, but through the replays of these black-and-white classics on TV in the early afternoons, after school. Soon after getting home and shucking off my uniform, I would park myself in front of the TV set together with siblings and househelp, mesmerized by images of local cinema. I thought it was a secret vice, since my parents, though movie lovers, were not too keen on Filipino films. I didn't dare discuss my early afternoon love affairs with classmates, either, since in the all-girls' school I went to, it was decidedly "*baduy*" to be so taken with anything native.

So it was with the maids that I shared this passion, debating the merits of each love team, sharing heated denunciations of the most hated *contravidas*, and guffawing at the antics of Pugo and Togo, Lupito and Lupita.

* * *

I ESPECIALLY looked forward to the Nida-Nestor team-ups. The light romantic comedies were just the right lift after a tiring school day, and the familiar, and indeed predictable, storylines were a comfort.

But most of all, the "*galawgaw*" provided an alternative role model for a young girl searching for other ways of womanhood. Movies were filled with simpering maidens, shyly eyeing the leading men yet not daring to show any sign of being attracted to them, lest they be labeled "loose" or wanton women. But though the movie heroines feigned disinterest or aloofness, men were really the center of their lives, and bagging one became the only measure of worth and womanhood.

In contrast, the young Nida was a carefree tomboy, free to roam the streets, holding her own against toughies and goons, peddling goods aboard bicycles and even on foot, and even eking out a living as a boxer(!). When the leading man, often a befuddled Nestor struggling to reconcile his feelings for this hellcat, showed signs of interest, her first reaction was fight and flight. This made for scenes fraught with comic possibilities, underlined with a subtle sexual tension as the contrasts between their two personalities made for an explosive combination.

* * *

OTHER actresses attempted to break out of the mold in similar manner. Most notably, the demure and virginal Gloria Romero, who made an equally memorable "Manang Biday" (to Nida's fighting "Waray") with the ridiculously humongous Ilocano cigar dangling from her delicate lips spewing Ilocano invectives.

But not even Judy Ann Santos in fighting form inside the boxing ring can equal the moxie and mischief of Nida Blanca, moviedom's eternal "*galawgaw.*"

What made Nida in a class by her own is that in real life she was as much a fighter as her characters. As she recounted to movie writer Ricky Lo in his column yesterday, she wasn't above getting into scrapes and misadventures even long after she reached movie stardom. Once she even slapped a jeepney driver who rained curses on her after a traffic accident.

Later in her career, Nida Blanca's public persona would mellow and mature. At the same time as her tomboy movies were airing in early afternoon replays, she was entertaining the public in "The Nida-Nestor Show," a most memorable primetime variety show. Here, one of the movies' most beloved love teams hoofed it up (they were both excellent and energetic dancers) and hammed it up in short comic excerpts, infecting the audience with their high energy and chemistry.

* * *

EVEN when she transformed into Marsha, a "straight" woman to Dolphy's languorous John who kept getting into trouble, Nida retained the core of the inner strength and fire that shown through her portrayal of the "*galawgaw.*"

Present-day audiences might know her primarily as the kindly but steely spined mother or grandmother, always armed with ready advice and no-nonsense counseling. But even these roles she imbued with spunk and spirit, not a bad way for a "*galawgaw*" to reach senior citizenship status.

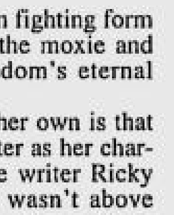
It wasn't just the violent manner of her death that drew people of all ages to TV screens the other evening, just to get all the possible details about her killing. Everyone was also there to pay tribute, along with the anchors, to this beloved "icon" of Philippine movies. And in keeping with her nature, I'm sure she would have been the first to recoil from being deified this way.

Nida Blanca would have been the last person to "qualify" for violent death, not just because of her screen image, but because, as her friends and co-workers in the business attested, she was also in real life a woman "with no enemies" who had long reconciled herself to whatever the Lord had willed for her.

There is genuine grieving in this land today, and by this fan, transported back to those hot early afternoons spent in fascination before the flickering black-and-white images of a "*galawgaw*" who gave her a glimpse of other ways to be a woman, to be strong, and to be true to yourself.

Ceramic pieces from diggings

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN my students came back from the National Museum, they expressed marvel at the new building and its attractions, but they all declared that they did not want to see another piece of Ming porcelain again for the rest of their lives! There are just too many Oriental ceramics in the museum. While these artifacts drive specialists and collectors into a feeding frenzy, students see one and think they can afford not to see them all. It helps that I try to relate these pieces of porcelain—whole and broken—to pre-Spanish or pre-colonial trade and culture, but there must be something else that will keep the short attention span of the MTV generation on these objects enough to appreciate the efforts of the archaeology division of the National Museum.

While doing research on the papers of Carl E. Guthe who headed the University of Michigan Archaeological Expedition that conducted diggings in the Southern Philippines from 1922-1925, I have grown fascinated by the Filipino "informants" or "assistants" who brought Guthe to his archaeological sites. Two men, a certain "Motak" and Juan Abella, were passed on to Guthe by Dean C. Worcester, former interior secretary who also provided the expedition with work and storage space in Cebu. Worcester described Abella as his "fellow conspirator and grave-robber" and it seems that much of his porcelain collection was built through his assistance. Abella was accompanied by his son-in-law Francisco Llaban who also went around Cebu and Bohol acquiring porcelain accidentally dug up by farmers in their fields. These two men were also instrumental in convincing people to leave a site alone, long enough for Guthe to get there and excavate scientifically.

In a letter from Guthe to Worcester in January 1923 he related:

"Last Thursday morning, early I went to Cebu, was met by Juan and his son-in-law at the dock and proceeded at once to the sites he had in mind, making a little detour first to his house, where he brought out four specimens. I found during the morning that the site at which the material seen by you the day you left had been found, was the same as that which you pointed out to me from the automobile on the Toledo road, just after turning off of the main south road.

"I believe you said Juan had made something of a mystery in obtaining the first pieces for you. I went up the hill, saw the places the material was said to (have) come from and took pictures. Counting the material obtained from this spot on Thursday as well as Tuesday, we have 14 pieces, five of which are unbroken. In addition to those you saw Tuesday, Juan brought on Thursday a small vase about 3 inches high, like those we already have, which I thought was brown, but after cleaning found it to be a cream white glaze. The other piece obtained Thursday was a single rim sherd of green plate. All the pieces cleaned up nicely, with the exception of the green bowl, with incised lotus pattern inside which seems to have fish oil in it. I've had little success with it so far.

"From Juan's house came three unbroken pieces. A brown jug, like those we have seen, superficially; a small shallow grey crackled saucer, and best of all, a soft, light-green celadon plate, uncrackled, with flaring rim and scalloped (parenthesis-like) lip. A raised flower design in the bottom. Diameter 24 cm. It certainly is a beauty. This material came from near the place the burial was excavated. From a native house, near the site of a burial, four pieces were bought, said to have come from the same cornfield. An olive-green bowl, with dark-brown, large-mesh crackle; a brown bowl (not celadon); a heavy plate, with cream glaze, badly crackled and partly broken away, and with black design, five stilt marks in the bottom. Lastly, a small blue and white unbroken tea bowl, with the light blue designs.

"From the grave itself, we have six vessels, all broken and all incomplete, to a greater or less degree. A cream-colored bowl, which does not appear to be very important, a small cream-colored dish, fluted on the exterior like others we have, and which I think are ting ware; a soft grey-glaze dish, uncrackled, with unglazed lip; a small deep, light-green dish with large mesh crackle; a soft-green uncrackled, celadon plate; and a celadon bowl with an incised flower in the centre of the bottom. Two iron implements, a knife and a spear-head, are both badly rusted. There are also a few off sherds picked up on the surface of the ground in this cornfield.

"Altogether it is a respectable haul, for one morning's work. Fifteen specimens in all, 5 of which are not even chipped, and a sixth which has only a small chip out of the rim. Juan told me that the cornfield in which we worked is said to have more burials in it, and that the owner will go over it, locate them, and let us know when he is done. That sounds as if there were hopes of getting additional material from this same burial ground in the near future."

One wonders how successful the Michigan expedition would be without these Filipino "informants." I want to know how much of their good specimens were actually excavated or bought off by Abella. Imagine pieces of our pre-history literally in the hands of someone we know so little about.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Texting at 64

HIGH BLOOD

Vilma R. Taroy

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

A YEAR ago I received a cell phone on my birthday. Little did I dream of the exciting world that awaited me.

The Nokia 3210 owner's guide puts it simply—"It's a clever little thing" and "Getting started is so easy."

I am 64 years old. In three months I'll be 65 and life isn't easy anymore. My blood pressure swings from 170/90 to 130/60. I can't pick up things on the floor without bending my knees. I hold on to railings when going up and down the stairs. I can't even curl my fingers after waking up. St. Anthony must be getting tired of my persistence to help me locate lost keys, bills, rings, books, etc.

Anyway, I was determined to enter this door leading to another world. I willed myself to navigate it. I had seen tricycle drivers, newsboys, vendors using cell phones. I witnessed students typing messages in seconds while riding in an FX taxi. The first few days were a struggle as I browsed through menus and settings. I wrote down the basic steps on a small sheet of paper and taped it at the back of my phone.

And suddenly I discovered that a whole new world existed! The owner's guide called it "Human technology—connecting people." For one, I can send jokes, love thoughts and friendly reminders. Picture messages brighten the screen every now and then. I can play games when stuck in the perennial traffic jams. I have a clock and a calculator. There are 38 ringing tones to choose from and I can call up relatives abroad anytime.

At first I typed correctly spelled words only to find out that one can't hold on to accepted rules in grammar and composition while texting. The shorter the word, the better: I HV SUMTN 2 TEL U, GRIT KTA GUD AM, SANA DI K GININAW HBANG N22LOG, DER R PIPOL HU RILI CARES 4 U.

Inspiring and cute messages are stored in my outbox. JESUS LOVES U AND I LUV U 2! WHEN U KIP D LORD IN UR HART DER IS NOTHING 2 FEAR ABT IN UR LYF.

My phone book lists more than 50 textmates—superintendents, principals, supervisors, teachers, acquaintances from a tour group, friends from way back, nurses, dentists, relatives, etc. A textmate who is a nurse sends as many as five messages at a time, starting with an inspirer and ending with a graphically visual one. Others send messages to force you to text back. HOY BUHAY PA AKO! BKA GUS2 MO AKO TXT. MASAMA KURIPOT NCCRA FON! Other messages serve coffee for breakfast with hugs, kisses and love. Greetings are sent via an airplane, a ship or a cart with flowers. Angels, hearts, bears, butterflies, apples, stars, trees, fish, etc. blink on the screen.

Linus, Charlie Brown's friend has his blanket everywhere he goes. I, a senior citizen, keeps this clever little thing for company. Despite negative news about cell-phone snatching and lessening of free text messages, my cell phone has become my buddy. I anticipate its familiar beep as early as 4 a.m. Come nighttime it rests on a small soft chair on my headboard. An acetate angel guards my phone made more visible by white backlights. It is dressed in pretty flowers that are yellow and bright as the sun. An anti-radiation gadget is glued at its back. I can edit, reply to, or forward any message instantly. And I know my cell phone number by heart.

Get a cell phone and be surprised.

Vilma R. Taroy, 64, is a principal of the Legarda Elementary School.

Forgiveness is all

Uga'

AFTER 34 years of married life, in 1991 my husband just suddenly stopped coming home. I suspected somehow that a mistress existed, but isn't that the normal trend? Of comfortable marriages in the late afternoons?

Our first two children were already married. They have their own lives, their own families in their own homes. The youngest is just out of college and I have my own career. Financially, life is not difficult without him, it is the emotional aspect that was hard to accept, the knowledge of having been cheated and short-changed by a philandering husband. A very selfish husband who took away all papers and documents of pieces of property and assets acquired all these years that would have feathered our nests in old age. The title to the very house where my youngest son and I live was not spared either; only to find out that in the end, taxes were not paid for the nine years that he kept hold of the papers. If that is not greed, what? During the day, when I am at my office, he pulled out the things he desired at home until nothing movable was left.

In the beginning I received unsolicited advice from well-meaning and sympathetic friends to do this and that, so that his job will be jeopardized, forgetting for a while that this is the Philippines where everything could be settled by the power of money, which he has. After the first two or three years, I shut up and rationalized to myself that he was the one who broke our marriage vows, so why should I bother with what he does to his own life?

It was in the first week of September 1999 when a fiscal friend of mine gave me a handwritten letter to be delivered to a department of the NBI. "With this letter," said the lady fiscal, "I guarantee you, in a very short time, your husband and his mistress will be imprisoned. Bring too the documents they falsified, the forged signature in acquiring bank loans, etc."

At this point, I was no longer bitter or even angry. It has been nine years. I simply accepted life which I learned to live blissfully alone. I consulted 11 of my closest friends regarding "the letter"—whether to submit it to the NBI or not. The friends I talked to included a Catholic priest and a religious brother, and they were one in saying, "*Ibigay mo para magkaleksyon sila.*" Deep in my heart I could almost hear myself murmur, "What for?" I was almost in my twilight years, so to speak. The pressure from these caring friends was so great, it became a dilemma. I decided to go to a hermitage in Tagaytay alone for three days and two nights. I prayed so hard and asked God to help me decide, whether to give the letter or not.

At the end of my soul-searching, I faced a blank wall, same confusion and no clarification as to what to do. It was a disappointing experience and all I could intone was, "Lord, why did you let me down?" Since it was a Sunday morning, I decided to hear Mass at the convent of the cloistered nuns before going home. The homily that morning shocked me when the priest said, "How many times must you forgive your enemies?" Seventy times seven. I took that as the answer to the question I asked the Lord. Back home, I told my friends that I am not submitting the letter. All of them called me a defeatist, one with no guts, etc. I kept silent for I was at peace thinking about the homily.

Exactly three months later on Dec. 8, 1999, a highway patrolman came to my door carrying my husband driver's license, telling me that the owner was found slumped on the steering wheel of his car by the roadside on the South Expressway, an apparent victim of a heart attack. My son and I proceeded to the hospital where he was brought. Three doctors and some nurses were applying CPR desperately to a clinically dead guy. He never regained consciousness. For the first time I saw my husband (the only time) after he left our house nine years ago. At that instant, everything flashed back, all the events that took place, the betrayal, the decisions I almost took for granted. How the good intentions of my friends were not really the right ones and that what I felt most that September was really the hand of God telling me gently, "Forgiving is the ultimate act to attain inner peace. For only when you truly love God, can you forgive completely."

My husband's death on Dec. 8, 1999 made me see the great compassion and magnanimity of God, perhaps telling me, "Look, I took him on the feast of the Immaculate Conception to show you, I too have forgiven him."

Uga' is a 66-year-old retiree and grandmother to three good-looking teenage boys and a pair of 5-year-old twins.

Understanding the madness

WHAT is killing to a terrorist? Six thousand innocent civilians are but statistics. What happened in New York and Washington are the handiwork of single-minded, brilliant, motivated religious zealots. No one can deny that the perpetrators trained themselves methodically and then, at the appointed time, met their suicidal destinies at the expense of unsuspecting innocent civilians. It is difficult to prove the devilish, murderous scheme. For one thing, the violence elicited more violence.

Once more, Afghanistan is turned into a desolate wasteland and members of the Taliban and civilians are blown to pieces. But such is the reality of the hour. Violence begets violence and woe to the civil liberties of the innocent and the blameless. We can only pray that the present paranoia will convince us beyond words or sear the truth into our minds that bullets have no brains and bloodletting is no solution to our present terrorist-planned Armageddon. Not even jingoistic rhetorics will give us wisdom. It is time we analyzed what gave impetus to the terrorists and why they were willing to give up their lives for their beliefs. Seneca once wrote: "Death is punishment to some, to some a gift, and to many a favor."

Pray we will not fall into the hands of the terrorists' planned scheme by returning evil for evil.

Pray we will not make heroes of terrorists by our act of vengeance.

Pray we will have singleness of mind to seek out the real perpetrators of the present tragedy.

LETTERS

Pray we understand George Santayana's wisdom that: "Fanaticism consists in redoubling your efforts when you have forgotten your aim."—**DR. SAMUEL P. FERNANDEZ, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Sta. Mesa, Manila**

Useless and impractical drug tests

THE INTENTION of the Land Transportation Office's requirement of conducting drug tests on all persons applying or renewing their driver's licenses is laudable. However, the requirement is useless and impractical (except for accredited drug-testing companies that will have a lucrative captive market).

It would be the height of stupidity for a person using drugs to voluntarily spend P300 for a drug test that would not only expose him as a drug user but also frustrate his chances of acquiring or renewing his driver's license.

To pass the required drug test, a drug user can simply refrain from taking drugs for a while to make sure no traces or residues of the drug will show up during the test. After the results of the test turn out negative then he will get his license and no one will know any better.

The drug-testing requirement of the LTO would only increase the burden on drivers' finances, improve the financial statements of drug-testing companies while the problem of persons driving while under the influence of drugs remain unsolved.—**JORIL L. SARTE, Reference and Research Bureau, House of Representatives**

Taken for a ride

FOR LURING the unsuspecting public with promises of "world-class production and Musclemania superstars and fitness universe pageant champions as guest posers," the promoters of the recent "Musclemania Philippines Challenge" held last Oct. 28 at the Teatro Aguinaldo must be investigated by the Department of Trade and Industry.

As part of the "Musclemania World Tour," the event was supposed to showcase Hollywood-style production design and program management.

What we got instead was a comedy of errors starring local promoters running around the stage playing the role of production assistants at one time and awards presenters the next. The use of amateur and thus, error-prone hosts did not help the situation.

But more than the amateur production and program mismanagement, what riled most of those who paid good money to support the event (this writer included) was the total unprofessionalism of the event organizers. This was clearly evident in the late start and finish, the arbitrary reservations made on unmarked seats that they were selling and the inclusion of totally unfit participants in the program, one of whom got the "Fighting Spirit" award which was funny if it was an event held as part of a fiesta celebration. In two categories, there were only two entries! In the heavyweight category, the eventual winner was the only qualified entry!

Aside from the top two winners and the lone guest poser from Indonesia, the whole exercise was a total waste of time. Which makes me wonder what kind of impression we gave to the "Musclemania World Tour" producer.

This kind of event leaves a bad taste in the mouth.—**ED DAMES, 25th Floor, The Enterprise Center Tower 2, 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City**

Fitting appointment and capability

THE APPOINTMENT of former police colonel and former local government administrator Ricardo B. Macala as corrections director is only right. Unfortunately, some misguided parties try to belittle Macala's achievements by claiming that Macala fell short of the rank status of his predecessors. We in the prison service, who have been accustomed to the traditional assignment of former police/military officers as corrections director, do not subscribe to this understanding precisely because those earlier appointees brought only a military mind-set to rehabilitation officers. Philippine corrections for quite some time became a repository of such practices as tight investigative program, tight disciplinary regimen and consequently, such practices as human rights abuses and mere lip service to rehabilitation. It was hard to accept a dogma which had no basis in real practice. With the appointment of an officer with a more civilian background in operations as Macala, things changed radically. Suddenly, prisoner welfare became a reality and prison service became a worthy social science. In fact, Corrections became a significant profession and a meaningful undertaking.

Macala may not be a general, but his performance and achievements in a short period of time as corrections director cannot be ignored. He may not be a Ceso eligible or as brilliant as former President Marcos but he made every corrections officer proud of his job and the institution he serves.—**VENJO TESORO, chief, Public Information Office, Bureau of Corrections, Muntinlupa City**

DENR has the ball in DAO 17

THE PHILIPPINE Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM), the Pinalakas ng Ugnayan ng Maliliit na Mangingisda ng Luzon, Mindanao at Visayas (Pumalu-MV) and the NGOs for Fisheries Reform (NFR) have been engaged in the campaign for the implementation of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Administrative Order No. 2001-17. We were greatly disappointed when the opinion of the justice secretary was sought on the legality of DAO 17.

We have just received a copy of Justice Secretary Hernando B. Perez's opinion dated Oct. 23, 2001 and we are happy to note that he did not find DAO 17 illegal. The fact that Perez cites no contravention of law or any legal infirmities in his opinion is for us tantamount to saying that DAO 17 is valid, legal and now enforceable.

We therefore reiterate our call for the immediate implementation of DAO 17. Rest assured that the PRRM and its partners will extend its support to the DENR to ensure that this process takes off right away.

The ball is in the DENR's court once again. We expect nothing less than the unwavering commitment of the DENR to the implementation of DAO 17 and the protection and conservation of our coastal and marine resources.—**WIGBERTO E. TAÑADA, president, Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, 56 Mother Ignacia Ave. cor. Dr. Lazcano Street, Barangay Paligsahan, Quezon City 1103**

Uncomplaining retiree

MY father won't complain! Military training prohibits that, in spite of the sad ending he is experiencing after three decades of honest-to-goodness public service.

My father retired as police superintendent last June 2001. Excited as any retired personnel, he accomplished all his requirements in two weeks and submitted them. He prayed that the release of his much-awaited and rightfully deserved retirement pay will come soon which is enough for him and my mother to enjoy for the rest of their lives. He regularly follows up his papers along with other old people—some coming from far provinces.

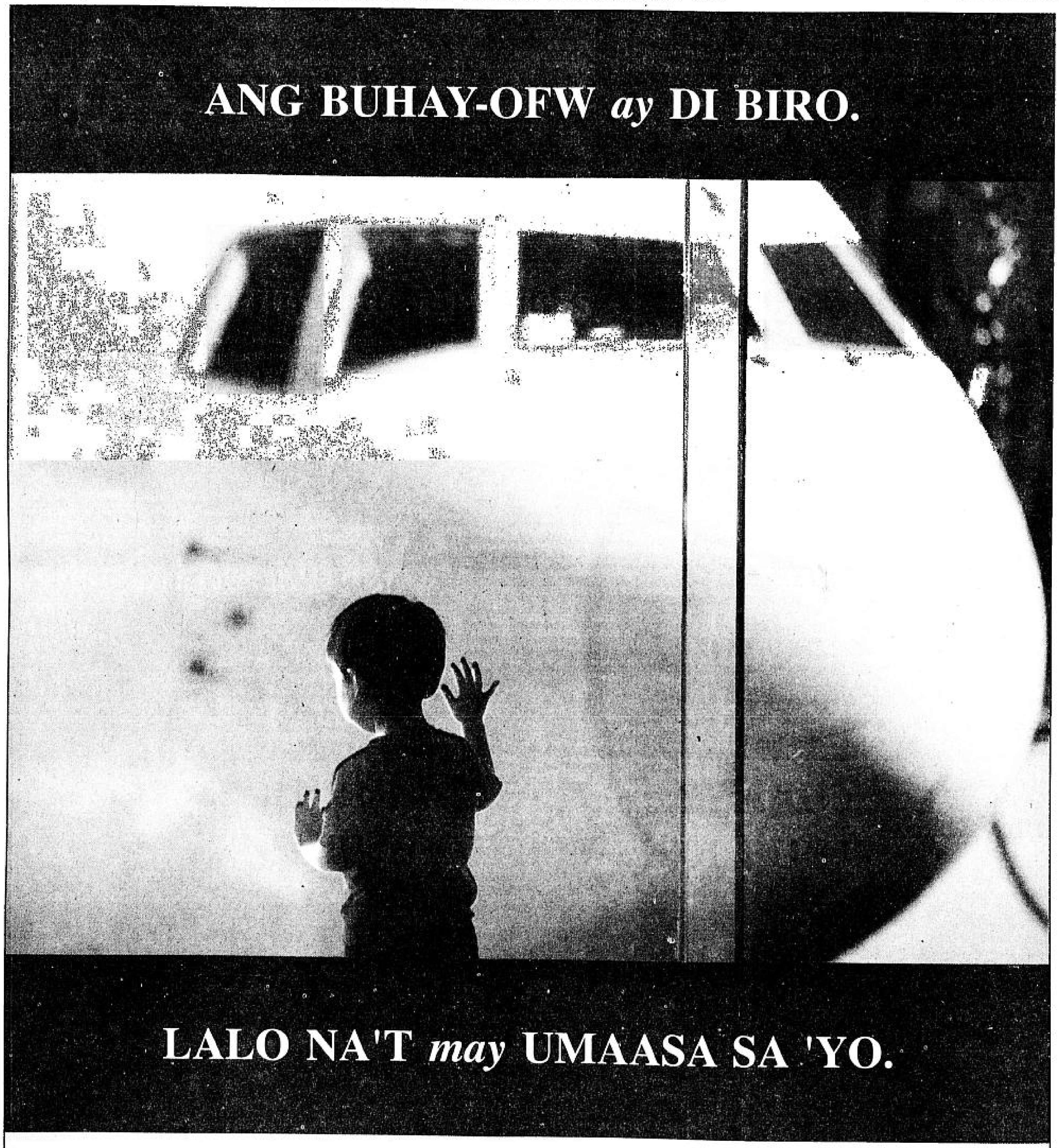
Six months after his retirement, he is still waiting for his retirement pay. Who could have saved much from the meager salary he used to budget and which automatically gets cut off on his retirement day? My sister commented that now she understands why policemen need to be corrupt—so they could sustain themselves while awaiting the release of their rightful claim. But she has a point.

My father is losing hope as he realized that he belongs to the Batch 11 of retirees and that the latest batch funded by the government was Batch 2. If the government has no money, is it the problem of these retirees? It is their rightful claim. They can't wait for this government to be more efficient and responsible. They can't wait for this government to recover from the economic hole. They can't wait much longer to enjoy their money.

If I only knew what government service means in the end, I would have long discouraged my father from staying till the end of his career. And, my sister would have encouraged him to be corrupt.

I pity him but I pity the thousands of others who may be poorer than him. I also pity those who are still in the service who are hoping for a trouble-free retirement. Perhaps, but not for those working for the government and the armed forces.

It's good that I decided to leave government service. This government should be thankful that the armed forces is no longer capable of staging a coup.—**CARLITO E. BALITA, ExCenPro, 412 J & T Bldg.,**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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Al-Jazeera
Exclusive

PICTURE taken from undated Al Jazeera television footage purportedly shows Hamza bin Osama bin Laden (left), one of the sons of Saudi-born dissident Osama bin Laden, displaying what the Taliban say is wreckage from a US helicopter near Ghazni. REUTERS

Powell: Iraq may be next

WASNINGTON—US Secretary of State Colin Powell has warned the United States could turn its attention to Iraq after achieving the goals of its military campaign in Afghanistan.

"We must end Osama bin Laden's terrorist threat to the world, and deal with the Taliban regime, who has given them haven," Powell told reporters Wednesday, after talks with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Hamad Al Sabah.

He said that after the goals of Operation Enduring Freedom are achieved, the United States will turn its attention to terrorism throughout the world.

"And nations such as Iraq, which have tried to pursue weapons of mass destruction, should not think that we will not be concerned about these activities, and will not turn our attention to them," Powell pointed out.

An opinion poll by Zogby International revealed Wednesday that 80 percent of Americans believed that launching military strikes against Iraq and removing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein from power would be an effective move in the war against terrorism declared by President George W. Bush.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz was quoted Sunday by a Lebanese newspaper as saying that Kuwait had always been a part of Iraq.

But Powell dismissed the remarks as inconsequential.

"Well, Mr. Tareq Aziz has been making these rather ridiculous and threatening statements for many years, so I take them all with a grain of salt," the secretary of state said.

The Bush administration has been under increased pressure from Republicans in Congress to move against Iraq in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks, even though administration officials have repeatedly said there is no credible evidence implicating Baghdad in the terrorist act.

Late last month, Aziz told The Sunday Telegraph of London that the United States and Britain planned to launch 1,000 missiles at 300 Iraqi targets in a bid to topple Saddam Hussein under the pretext of waging war against terrorism.

British officials have denied the charge. *AFP*

Defectors tell of training camp

WASHINGTON—US Homeland Security Chief Tom Ridge said Wednesday he hoped the anthrax scare had ended, though the work of investigators trying to understand its origin was far from over and the US government's terrorism alert remained in place.

"I am hopeful, like the rest of America, that the anthrax has stopped permanently... We certainly haven't seen or detected any other sources of new anthrax" in recent days, Ridge told reporters at a White House briefing.

But the government is no closer to determining the origin of the bioterror attacks which killed four people in the last month and infected at least 14 others.

"We haven't included or excluded either a domestic or international source for the anthrax," Ridge said. The investigation has not corroborated earlier suspicions it was made in the United States, he said.

"We have not ruled out whether this was the act of an individual, or a collective act, whether it was a domestic source or a foreign source. Hopefully one of these days we'll be able to answer both questions. Today we cannot," Ridge said.

At a Senate hearing Tuesday, FBI officials admitted under incredulous questioning by lawmakers that they did not yet know where the anthrax came from or how many people might have access to it, even in the United States.

The FBI has been working on more than 1,000 leads in its anthrax probe, and since mid-September has responded to approximately 7,089 suspicious anthrax letters, 950 incidents involving terrorist threats, and an estimated 29,331 telephone calls about suspicious packages, the agency said.

"Resources available to law enforcement for responding to the alleged threats... are strained and stretched to capacity," said FBI Deputy Assistant Director James Caruso. *AFP*

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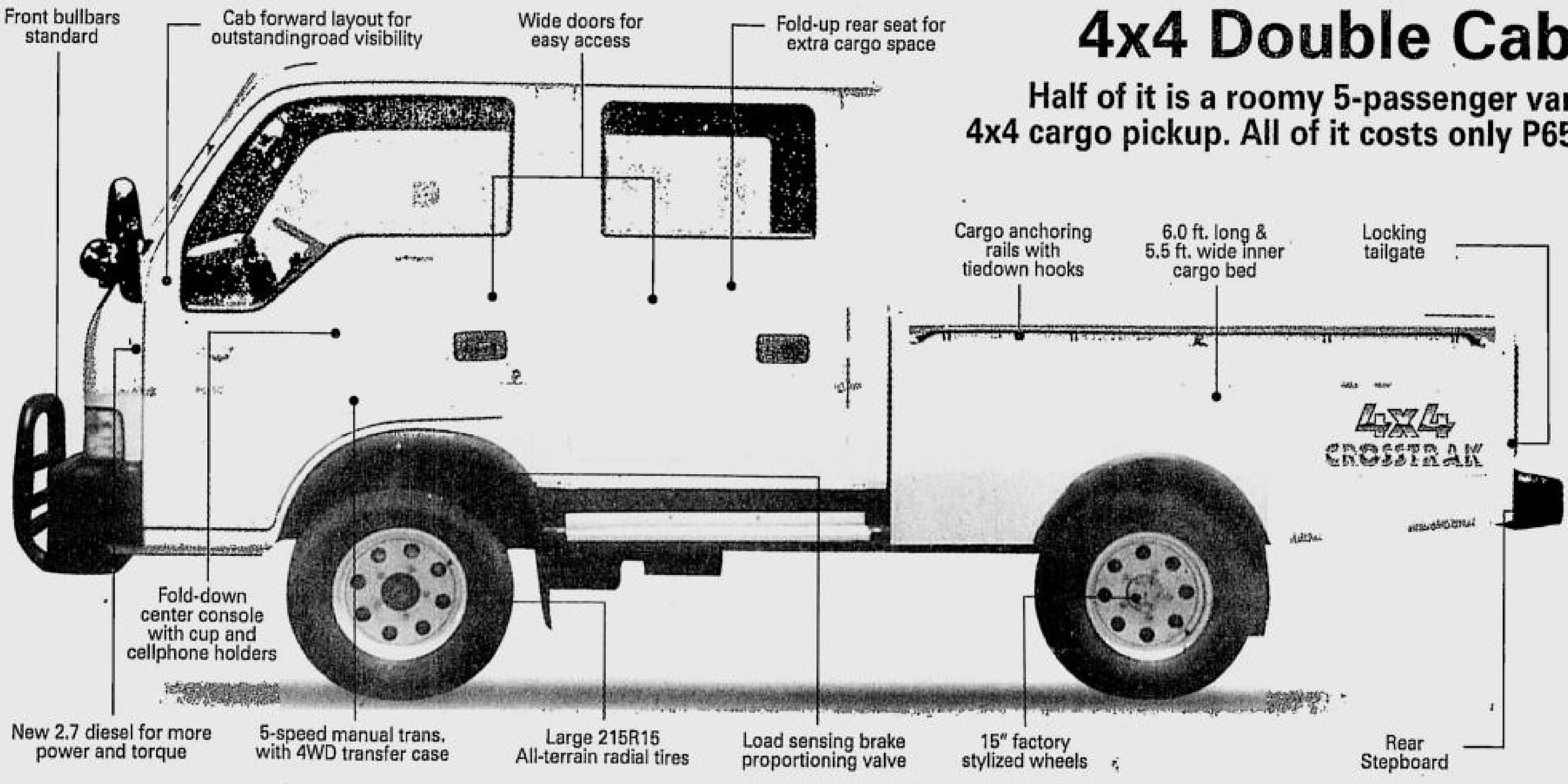
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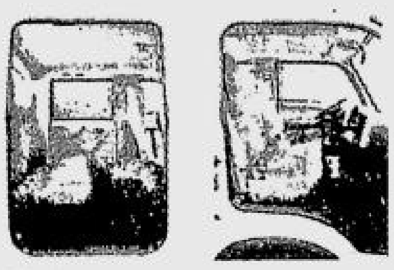

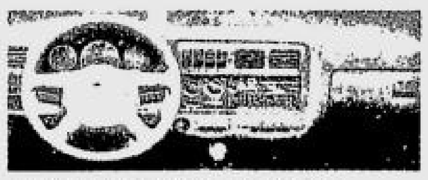

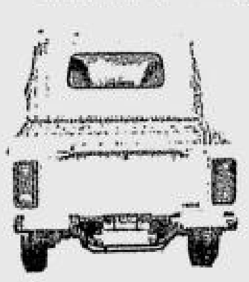

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Cargo bed width (mm/ft)	1676/5.5	1500/4.9	1500/4.9
Gross Vehicle Weight (kgs)	2930	2570	2760
Engine displacement (cc)	2665	2664	3153
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Nuclear terror risk seen real despite lack of proof

WASHINGTON—A potential bid by terrorists to use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, the subject of a warning by US President George W. Bush, though still unsubstantiated by evidence, is a real-life threat, experts say.

Before the Sept. 11 attacks against the United States, talk of a risk of nuclear attacks by a network of extremists such as Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida organization would have appeared far-fetched.

But in the light of the terrorist strikes, Bush's view, expressed Tuesday in a satellite address to leaders from east and central Europe, that al-Qaida hoped to "destabilize entire nations and regions," rings true.

"They're seeking chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. Given the means, our enemies would be a threat to every nation and, eventually, to civilization itself," Bush told the leaders meeting in Warsaw.

Now experts say that an effort that began 10 years ago aimed at containing the potential nuclear threat left by the break-up of the Soviet Union, and seen with the emergence of nuclear powers, needs to be relaunched.

In the last few years, little evidence has come to light to confirm the big fear lurking in the minds of the developed nations: just how much fissile material or chemical weaponry has fallen into terrorists' hands?

Al-Qaida boss Bin Laden is viewed as the ringleader of the suicide hijack attacks on New York and Washington that left some 5,000 dead and missing.

While the White House recognized there is a lack of proof or new elements to have motivated Bush's remarks, it underlined the relevance of the message he is sending to countries formerly of the Soviet bloc.

And headway must now be made to annihilate the existing threat, say experts.

"Although to date the exposures to anthrax-tainted letters have remained limited, a large-scale attack with a chemical or biological agent against US targets at home or abroad is a real possibility," Jonathan Tucker of Washington's Monterey Institute of International Studies told a Senate hearing Wednesday.

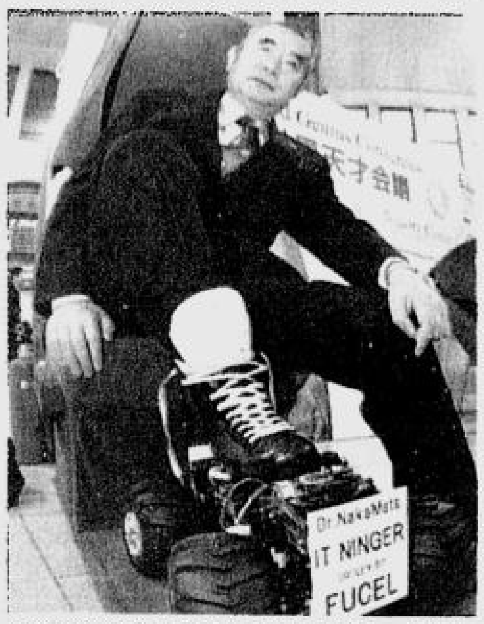
Intelligence services of the West have warned for a decade on prospective technology and sensitive product sales, and offered financial aid and technology for mass-dismantling of obsolete weapons to ex-Soviet nations.

Measures to soak up the threat have included taking on scientists who lost their jobs under the old regime, and buying up entire stocks of dangerous products stored in inadequately supervised hangars.

But efforts are still insufficient, and need re-evaluating in the wake of Sept. 11. "American export controls are now weaker than ever before in our history," said Gary Milhollin of the University of Wisconsin Law School.

"Export controls grow less effective every year," James Lewis of the Center for Strategic and International Studies confirms. "This is particularly true for dual-use export controls."

AFP



INSPIRED BY MERCURY? REUTERS

Japanese inventor Dr. Yoshiro NakaMats shows off his fuel-battery powered boot at the "World Genius Convention" in Tokyo Nov. 8. NakaMats says the boot can propel its wearer faster than a speeding bicycle.

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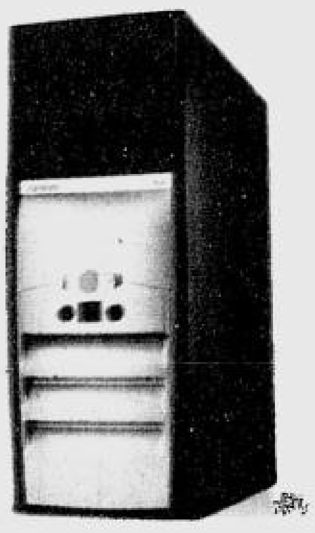

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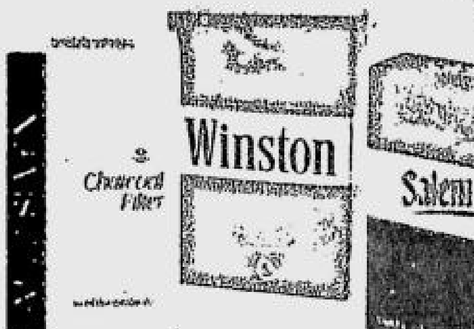

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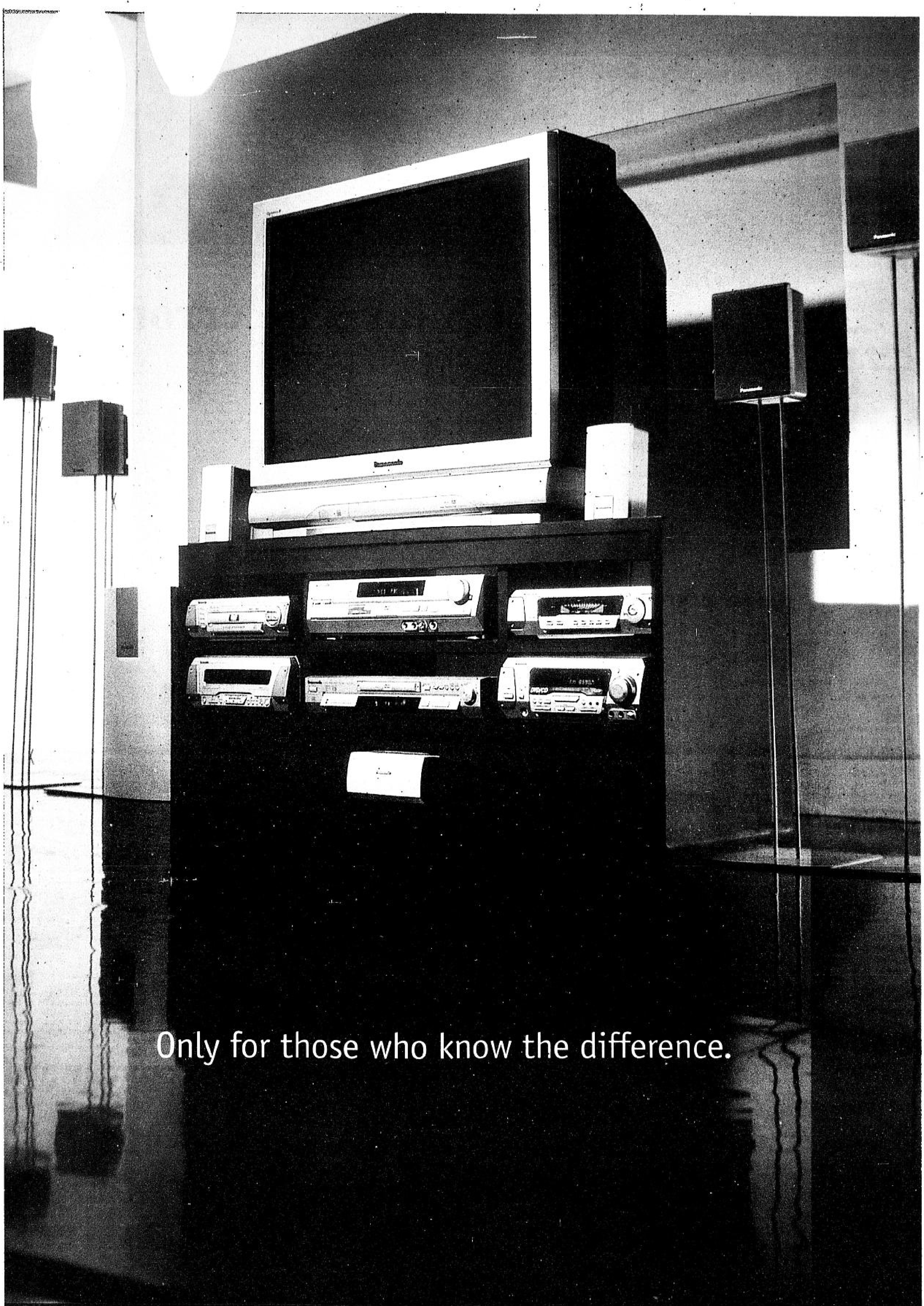

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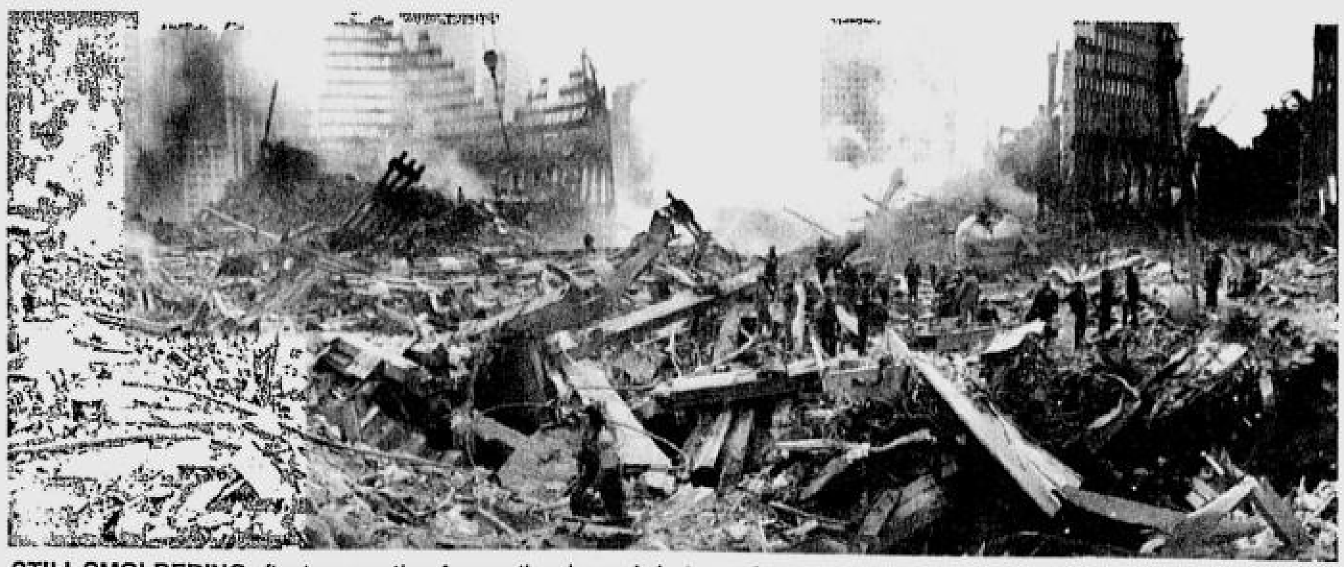

STILL SMOLDERING after two months: A recently released photograph taken by the Federal Emergency Management Agency of workers in the wreckage of the World Trade Center in New York Sept. 16. Cleanup efforts are expected to last months to remove an estimated 450,000 tons of debris from the two towers and other destroyed or damaged structures. REUTERS/FEMA

US targets terror cash

WASHINGTON—The United States on Wednesday fired a new volley in its war on terror, targeting terrorists' financial managers, as US-backed opposition forces in Afghanistan gained ground against the ruling Taliban militia accused of sheltering the mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks.

US President George W. Bush announced that authorities had shut down the US offices of the al-Taqwa and the al-Barakaat Islamic financial networks, which he said raised and managed funds for alleged terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, organized shipments of weapons and even provided secure telephone lines.

"By shutting these networks down, we disrupt the murderer's work," said Bush.

The US administration also added 62 names to a list of 88 individuals and organizations whose assets were ordered frozen for supporting terrorism.

Bush said US allies had agreed to follow suit, and authorities in the United Arab Emirates promptly announced they had seized the assets of al-Barakaat, which is also known as al-Baraka.

But Lebanon rejected a separate US request to freeze the assets of Hezbollah, saying it was a resistance group and not a terrorist organization.

In Afghanistan, the opposition Northern Alliance said a series of victories over the last two days had brought it seven kilometers from Mazar-i-Sharif, a Taliban stronghold whose airport makes it a key staging center.

Control of the northern Afghan city would allow the alliance to link up with US troops based in nearby southern Uzbekistan, cut Taliban supply lines and bring in military aid.

More that 1,000 US troops are deployed in Uzbekistan, and Mazar-i-Sharif would be a useful staging area for allied forces to drive south into Taliban-held territory.

One month after US and British forces launched the first air strikes on Afghanistan in response to the Sept. 11 suicide attacks on New York and Washington, US bombers on Wednesday attacked Taliban positions on the strategic battle lines near the northeastern town of Taloqan and north of Kabul.

US special forces in northern Afghanistan have been directing air strikes in support of the Northern Alliance.

But, for the first time in days, US warplanes did not bomb Taliban positions on the Mazar-i-Sharif front on Wednesday, according to Qari Qudratullah, a spokesperson for Atta Mohammed, one of the top Northern Alliance commanders. *AFP*

Musharraf slips out of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD—With violent protests at a minimum and key opposition clerics in detention, President Pervez Musharraf is confident enough to take his first foreign trip since Sept. 11, leaving his military government to deal with any threats at home.

In visits to Paris, London and New York, Musharraf was making the case for a "short and more targeted" war in Afghanistan and urging a break in the US-led bombing campaign when the Muslim holy month of Ramadan begins in about 10 days.

Since throwing his support behind the US military campaign, Musharraf has faced ongoing demonstrations by Islamic groups sympathetic to the ruling Taliban in neighboring Afghanistan.

A nationwide day of protest was set for Friday, but the size and intensity of the demonstrations has waned and there have been no violent outbursts in the past several weeks.

While Musharraf's position appears strong, he slipped out of Islamabad like a man on an undercover mission.

His plane left just after dawn Wednesday, hours before it was expected to take off. Shortly before he departed, the country's mobile phone system was mysteriously cut in another apparent security move.

The general then made brief, unannounced stops in Iran and Turkey en route to Paris, his advertised destination.

Most analysts believe there's broad consensus that Musharraf is in firm control.

"His position is comfortable," political analyst Kaiser Bengali said. *AP*

SOARING AGAIN REUTERS

A British Airways Concorde takes off from London's Heathrow airport, Nov. 7. The supersonic aircraft made its first commercial crossing of the Atlantic on Wednesday since the fleet was grounded for modifications following the crash in France in July 2000 which claimed 113 lives.

Germany to station troops in Uzbekistan

HAMBURG, Germany—Germany will station a force of commandos, tanks and other military units in Uzbekistan. as part of the US-led offensive against the Taliban in neighboring Afghanistan, the Bild daily reported Thursday.

In an agreement with the US Pentagon, German Fuchs (Fox) armored vehicles, which can detect nuclear, biological or chemical elements on the battlefield, special commando forces, evacuation forces, transport forces and naval forces.

Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's cabinet approved Wednesday his offer to provide up to 3,900 German troops to assist the US-led offensive against the Taliban in Afghanistan, in a move showing Germany's military coming of age since the second world war.

For the first time since that war, German troops could be making the highly symbolic step of being engaged in combat outside Europe, although Schroeder said Washington had not asked Germany "to participate either in air strikes or in putting in ground troops."

The cabinet specified the area where German troops may be called on to operate as, in addition to the Nato countries, the Arabian peninsula, the Middle East, Central Asia and northeast Africa, as well as the corresponding sea lanes, in a copy of the resolution made available in a press statement. *AFP*

Court strikes down Exxon award

SAN FRANCISCO—A panel of federal judges found that oil giant ExxonMobil need not pay five billion dollars in punitive damages awarded in the aftermath of a 1989 oil spill that fouled Alaska's Prince William Sound.

The legal grounds for the award against Exxon should have been solely focused on economics, not environmental damage, Judge Andrew Kleinfeld wrote in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals finding in Wednesday's ruling.

Judges Mary Schroeder, James Browning and Kleinfeld ordered that the Exxon case be sent back to a federal court in Alaska, where the amount of the cash award is to be reduced.

"The Valdez oil spill was a tragic accident that the company deeply regrets," ExxonMobil Chairman Lee Raymond said in a written statement Wednesday.

"Today, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals confirmed ExxonMobil's position that the five billion punitive damage award related to the Valdez accident is excessive."

Captain Joseph Hazelwood was in charge of the tanker Valdez when it strayed from a shipping lane and crashed into Bligh Reef in Prince William Sound on March 24, 1989.

Hazelwood has been described in court documents as "an alcoholic who fell off the wagon." But he was acquitted in 1990 of operating the tanker while drunk.

The cracked tanker spewed 11 million gallons of crude oil into the sound and marred the coastline with petroleum gunk.

People living and working in the area argued the mess eroded their property values and ruined fishing and hunting.

Raymond maintained the company took immediate responsibility for the spill, cleaned it up, and voluntarily compensated those who claimed direct damages.

Exxon, which was bought by Mobil Corp. after the accident and became ExxonMobil, spent 2.2 billion dollars on the spill cleanup.

More than 11,000 people and businesses received more than 300 million dollars in compensation.

But an Anchorage jury in 1994 determined that actual damages totaled 287 million dollars and rejected the plaintiffs' claims for additional compensatory damages. *AFP*

Assets worth $113M hidden by Daewoo founder uncovered

SEOUL—South Korean financial authorities on Thursday said they had uncovered some 113 million dollars of assets hidden by the fugitive founder of the bankrupt Daewoo Group, Kim Woo-choong.

"We've found hidden assets of former Daewoo chairman Kim Woo-choong worth 140 billion won ($112.5 million)," an official of the Korea Deposit Insurance Corp. said.

"We will finish the ongoing investigation into the failure of the Daewoo Group by the end of the year and take legal steps to seize the hidden assets," he said.

Kim Woo-choong, now aged 65, disappeared after Daewoo, once South Korea's second biggest conglomerate, collapsed under an estimated 80 billion dollars of debt in July 1999.

He is being sought by police for alleged embezzlement and financial fraud.

The hidden assets include a golf course and other real estates as well as shares of firms held in the names of his relatives and associates.

The founder has been on the run abroad after disappearing while supposedly on a business trip to China.

Kim has been accused of diverting millions of dollars from the company and inflating Daewoo Group assets by several billion dollars to win multibillion-dollar loans.

Last month, he sent a letter to a Seoul newspaper denying he is guilty of fraud and apologizing for causing "a lot of pain and confusion."

One of Kim's aides said his boss was writing memoirs focusing on the Daewoo Group, although he has health problems and has to go to hospital every day.

An aide has said the former chairman would return home early next year after appeal court proceedings involving former Daewoo Group executives are over.

Seven former Daewoo executives received prison sentences of up to seven years from a district court in July for falsifying accounts and diverting company funds. *AFP*

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LGUs given 'jueteng' ultimatum

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. warned local government officials that they would lose control over their police forces if they failed to stop illegal gambling in their areas.

Lina, who was guest during the two-day regional peace and order capability enhancement seminar that started Wednesday, said the National Police Commission (Napolcom) would stop deputizing local government executives as their representatives if illegal gambling persists in their areas.

Should the town or city mayors lose control of the local police forces, the concerned police chief would also be relieved and the provincial police director would directly control the local police.

He said the Napolcom has drawn up a resolution on this issue. Napolcom commissioners and Director General Leandro Mendoza, Philippine National Police chief, are expected to endorse the resolution this week.

"A wholistic approach—mobilizing the whole community, church and media—is needed to combat (illegal gambling). There is also a need to amend existing laws on illegal gambling," he said.

He said charging officials with dereliction of duty as called for by law is not easy to prove in court.

Lina said unless existing laws are amended or new laws "with stronger teeth" are introduced, the campaign against illegal gambling will only "go in circles."

He also expressed support for the bill filed by Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla increasing the fines and penalties on illegal gambling.

Under present laws, violators are fined from P1,000 to P6,000 and imprisoned for 30 days.

The Macapagal administration took over power on the heels of charges that ousted President Joseph Estrada took hundreds of millions of pesos in bribe from illegal gambling operations.

The bribery scandal was first revealed by erstwhile Estrada friend Luis "Chavit" Singson, former governor of Ilocos Sur.

Singson alleged during the impeachment trial of Estrada that he delivered the bribe to the ousted President in his home in Greenhills and in Malacañang.

The impeachment trial was not finished after prosecutors led by now Sen. Joker Arroyo walked out of the proceedings and initiated widespread protests on Edsa.

The scandal blew wide and led to the downfall of Estrada in what is now being dubbed as Edsa 2.

The former President has also been charged with plunder for allegedly ordering the Social Security System to invest hundreds of millions of pesos of SSS funds for Belle Resources Corp. ***Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

CASECNAN PROJECT

Ecija yields dam revenue share to Vizcaya

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—As an apparent gesture of goodwill, Nueva Ecija has yielded to Nueva Vizcaya its national wealth share from the Casecnan multipurpose irrigation and power project.

Nueva Vizcaya Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani said Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III has pledged to transfer the 1 percent share that his province will receive from the CMIPP to Nueva Vizcaya as the water source of the project.

"Governor Joson wanted to ensure the sustainability of the project so the amount that will be given to (Nueva Vizcaya) will be used to preserve and protect the Casecnan watershed," Agbayani said.

He said Joson made the pledge during the CMIPP inauguration on Oct. 12.

"We can give you that (share). Anyway, our greatest interest is on the water that goes into the project that we can use for irrigation and power production," Agbayani quoted Joson as saying.

In a letter to Joson, Agbayani has asked the provincial government of Nueva Ecija to formalize the "Casecnan pledge" through a resolution from the provincial board.

With Pantabangan town as host of the CMIPP, Nueva Ecija is entitled to get the share from the national wealth, though its water source primarily comes from the hinterlands of Caraballo in Nueva Vizcaya.

Under existing laws, only the host locality of a power-generating project is entitled to receive a share from national taxes collected for its operations.

But provincial officials here said a power project's watershed faces the risk of depletion without adequate funding assistance for its protection.

The CMIPP is a P32.5-billion project intended to provide additional 150 megawatts of electric power to the Luzon grid of the National Power Corp.

With additional water flowing from Casecnan, the Pantabangan reservoir is also expected to irrigate additional 50,000 hectares of rice land in Central Luzon.

Water from the Casecnan and Taan rivers in Nueva Vizcaya is siphoned through two 30-m high weirs in Barangay Pelaway in Dupax del Sur, Nueva Vizcaya and through a 26-km transbasin tunnel to the Pantabangan reservoir.

Water in the tunnel flows through an underground power turbine at Sitio Pauan in Barangay Villarica in Pantabangan, a few meters from the Nueva Vizcaya-Nueva Ecija border, before finally landing in the reservoir.

Agbayani said the project, originally planned to be put up in Nueva Vizcaya, was transferred to Nueva Ecija because of stiff resistance from villagers and pro-environment groups here.

As a result, Nueva Vizcaya was deprived of getting its share of the national wealth, the governor said.

The amount from Nueva Ecija's national wealth share, according to Agbayani, would be used to create jobs for the Bugkalot dwellers of the Casecnan forests.

The Casecnan watershed, the ancestral domain of the Bugkalots, will be protected and maintained by tribe members who will be given jobs to replace their traditional slash-and-burn method of forest farming.

"We are giving them (Bugkalots) alternative sources of livelihood, such as citrus farming, so that they would not go back to *kaingin*, and the sustainability of the forests would be ensured," Agbayani said.

According to Bugkalot tribe leader Walalang Ebenga, 61, the project's livelihood component was crucial.

"If the government cannot provide us any source of living, we do not have any choice but to go back to the mountains and do kaingin," he said. "That was our means of livelihood even before the project was started."

Bugkalot farmers used to rely on proceeds from selling harra lumber to lowland furniture makers, threatening the depletion of thick forests in the Caraballo mountain ranges. ***Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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Location of seized priest uncertain, says Army official

PAGADIAN CITY—No one knows for sure where kidnapped Italian missionary Giuseppe Pierantoni is.

Latest intelligence reports indicated that Pierantoni was sighted in the two coastal towns of Naga and Ipil in Zamboanga Sibugay province, according to Brig. Gen. Angel Atutubo, chief of Task Force Giuseppe.

Atutubo said the kidnappers could have transferred the priest to Zamboanga Sibugay from Lanao de Sur to escape pursuing government troopers.

He added that reports saying that the priest was in Lanao del Sur could have been meant to confuse the military.

"But we are not discounting the possibility that he is in Lanao del Sur. Everything remains uncertain unless we rescue the priest in that area," he said.

But Atutubo confirmed that Pierantoni is in the custody of Barahama Sali, deputy of slain kidnap gang leader Abdulsalam Akiddin alias Commander Kiddie.

Sali reportedly took over Akiddin's post. The military tagged Akiddin as chief of the Special Operation's Group or the "fund-raising unit" of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Western Mindanao.

The MILF denied this allegation.

Last week, emissaries of the kidnappers claimed that the Italian priest was brought to Nusa-Nusa, an islet in Lake Lanao, which is part of Balindong town in Lanao del Sur.

"We are trying to evaluate all these things," Atutubo said.

On Monday night, six suspected members of Sali's group were killed in an encounter with government troopers in the boundary of Barangays Upper Pangi and Tinan in Ipil town.

But Ipil Mayor Rey Olegario ordered Supt. Arnulfo Perez, provincial police chief, to investigate the incident following reports that those killed were civilians.

Olegario said he received reports that soldiers from the 102nd Infantry Brigade fired at several houses in the boundary of Barangays Upper Pangi and Tinan.

He said he only knew about the incident Tuesday afternoon through Tinan Barangay Chair Abdulgani Ismael.

Quoting Ismael, the mayor said unidentified men wearing fatigues fired at houses around 6 p.m. Monday.

But Chief Insp. Petronilo Ochetorena, town police chief, said five members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front headed by a certain Commander Sarahami Sali clashed with patrolling soldiers.

Ochetorena said five of Sali's men were killed.

But MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said those killed were not MILF members.

"Yes, there was an encounter but those killed were residents there. They were fishpond laborers," Kabalu told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Kabalu said the residents were killed after a reinforcement team from the 33rd Infantry Battalion came across the residents.

"Those residents were the first people they (soldiers) came across with two hours after the first encounter occurred Sunday evening," Kabalu said.

He identified those killed as Wahid Walil, 49, Lali Sahibad, 50, Haron Sahibad, 32, Safari Daud, 40 and Tagumo Hashim, 32. ***Hernan P. dela Cruz, Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase with a report from Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Typhoid fever stalks Eastern Visayas towns

TACLOBAN CITY—The number of cases of typhoid fever in Eastern Visayas has reached 671 with three reported deaths since January this year, according to figures provided by the Department of Health.

The fatalities, whose identities were withheld by health authorities, were residents of Matalom town in Leyte; and Macrohon town and Maasin City, both in Southern Leyte.

Annabel de Veyra, Eastern Visayas health department sentinel nurse, said the 671 cases that were reported to the health department regional office from January to October this year were higher compared to the number of cases that was reported for the same period last year.

She said that last year, the regional health department received only 350 cases of typhoid fever with five fatalities.

Based on the regional health department record, Samar had the most typhoid cases with 289 cases. At least 162 typhoid cases were reported in Leyte; Biliran, 45; Southern Leyte, 69; Northern Samar, 66; and Eastern Samar, 40.

Despite the reported increase in the number of typhoid cases, health authorities said there was no cause for alarm because the disease is endemic in the region.

"But this does not mean that we are being complacent about this," said De Veyra. "We have been conducting (a) massive information dissemination drive in areas where cases of typhoid fever have been (reported)."

Typhoid fever can be prevented through proper sanitation. It is mainly caused by bacteria called "*Salmonella typhi*." ***Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau***

New mayor sworn in

MABITAC, Laguna—The vice mayor of slain Mabitac Mayor Bernardo "Bombet" Sayarot was sworn in as the new chief executive of this town.

The children of the late mayor appealed to government authorities to find the masterminds of their father's murder.

New Mayor Apollo Aguilar, Vice Mayor Noel Mendoza and the members of the municipal council took their oaths before Laguna Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro at the provincial capitol 9 a.m. Monday. ***Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western Visayas and Southwestern Luzon will experience stormy weather and its coastal waters will be rough to very rough. The other sections of Southern Luzon and Visayas will have widespred rains and occasional gusty winds with moderate to rough seas. The rest of the country will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 28° Lo 23°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 25° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 20°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 28° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Widespread Rains	Hi 27° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Stormy	Hi 28° Lo 24°
Calapan	Stormy	Hi 29° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Stormy	Hi 29° Lo 22°
Roxas	Stormy	Hi 28° Lo 22°
Cebu	Widespread Rains	Hi 28° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Rains	Hi 29° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/11/09/01

Scandal at Baguio rich men's club

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—A human shield formed by armed guards of the Baguio Country Club barred on Wednesday estranged members of the family of Potenciano Ilusorio, the club's late board chair, from joining this year's BCC stockholders' meeting and the biennial election of its directors.

The Ilusorio patriarch died on June 28, leaving unresolved a family feud that had set his widow, 81-year-old Erlinda Kalaw-Ilusorio, oldest son Ramon, and daughters Marietta and Shereen against eldest daughter Sylvia Ilusorio-Yap, Maximo, and Ma. Erlinda Ilusorio-Bildner.

Many BCC members decided to shy away from this particular meeting, expecting their boardroom to be the new battlefield of the feuding Ilusorio children, a BCC member told the INQUIRER by telephone from Cebu City.

Less than 100 members attended yesterday's meeting, although the elections were validated by a "quorum of 1,173 shares of the Baguio Country Club Corp.," said former Baguio Mayor Virginia de Guia, a BCC stockholder.

Disappointment

"Most are friends of both Ilusorio (factions) and we are very disappointed (with) their scandals."

About 20 BCC security men and a contingent of policemen, who were already manning the gates of the BCC as early as 7 a.m. sprang into action when the estranged Ilusorio faction showed up about 10:45 a.m.

Ramon and Marietta Ilusorio berated and negotiated with some BCC lawyers and the BCC security guards for nearly an hour at the club's front gate.

The impasse stopped several cars headed for the club, as well as Ramon's daughters and guests who were forced to stand at the gates under the heat.

They managed to penetrate the road entrance to meet with the BCC lawyers, but were subsequently drawn back by a chain of armed guards, who linked up their arms when the club lawyers failed to pacify Ramon.

About 11:20 a.m., Ninfa Bito, daughter of a club member identified with Ramon and Marietta, angrily broke through the human barricade.

Playing tennis

"I'm a member. I only want to play tennis! Why am I being prevented from entering?" she yelled.

Many of the guards, their faces tense and bewildered, re-formed their barricade behind the enraged Bito.

"This is harassment. This is (insane). I am a (BCC) stockholder. I have rights. Why are they blocking our entry?" Ramon protested at the gate.

But lawyer Federico Agcaoili, BCC president and a brother of Potenciano Ilusorio's daughter-in-law, Ma. Cristina, told the INQUIRER that Ramon had already been expelled from the club.

He said Ramon's sister, Marietta, "is not a stockholder and has no existing shares (in BCC)."

"The reason why (BCC) barred (Ramon and Marietta) from the country club is to prevent them from creating the usual scene like the one they perpetuated before the Court of Appeals. I wanted to insulate our members, who are affected by this (feud)... In fact, the BCC management issued a statement emphasizing to stockholders that the Baguio Country Club is not Ilusorio, and should not be (discouraged) by the (scandal)," Agcaoili said.

Only Ramon's and Marietta's mother, Erlinda, was allowed to join the meeting that began at 10:30 a.m.

But the Ilusorio widow was accompanied by a Makati court sheriff, who served Agcaoili a Nov. 7 temporary restraining order from Judge Sixto Marella Jr. of the Makati regional trial court.

The order stopped Sylvia Yap, Erlinda Bildner and Maximo Ilusorio from administering Potenciano Ilusorio's 463 shares of the BCC Corp.

The shares represent 21 percent of the Ilusorio's controlling stocks at the BCC, which were registered under his name, and that of the Fidelity Farms Inc. and Remar Real Estate and Development Corp.

Election

However, Erlinda Ilusorio was unable to prevent the reelection of the current board members, led by Yap, who headed the board's executive committee, and her brother Maximo, who assumed the post left vacant by the elder Ilusorio five months ago.

Agcaoili, the stockholder's meeting chair, ignored the TRO, arguing that the directive did not apply to Baguio because of its "territorial infirmities."

Instead, Ilusorio's widow walked out of the meeting and formed a separate board of directors at the Concorde Hotel where she and her children Ramon and Marietta were billeted.

One of Erlinda Ilusorio's lawyers said the effect of two BCC boards of directors is to notify the banks about the club's "crisis," freeze the projects and operations of the club, and stop (the Ilusorio siblings identified with Potenciano Ilusorio) from "bleeding it for their own personal gain."

Erlinda Ilusorio and her children Ramon, Marietta and Shereen accused Yap, Bildner and Maximo Ilusorio of shutting them out of the BCC and away from their father for nearly a decade.

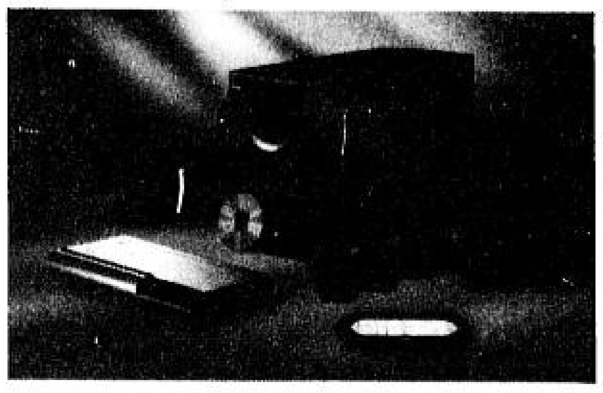
Accusations

They also accused the three of misappropriating BCC funds for their personal use.

But Agcaoili stressed that the reelection of Yap and Maximo Ilusorio to the seven-member board "was a vote of confidence for the old board."

He said they were elected "for having introduced improvements worth P170 million in three years, for keeping the club financially sound, and securing cash reserves worth P150 million for the future."

"The Baguio Country Club is probably the only club without *utang* (debts) in the Philippines, and maybe Asia," said Agcaoili, who was also elected to the board, along with Juan Carlos del Rosario, Jose Roman Ozaeta, Victoria de los Reyes and former Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano.



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WORKERS AND STAKEHOLDERS IN THE PHILIPPINE CEMENT INDUSTRY

Youth tapped in war on NPA

OZAMIZ CITY—The military in Misamis Occidental said it has decided to tap local youth councils to help counter the influence of the communist movement after it was reported that there is an increase in the recruitment activity of the NPA aimed at the youth.

Maj. Serafin Raymundo, commanding officer of the Army's 5th Infantry Battalion revealed this new tactic even as he admitted that the New People's Army has already infiltrated at least nine upland villages in nearby Tangub City.

Raymundo said there was an increase in the number of reported sightings of NPA guerrillas in the villages, which used to be under the control of the military until the late 1980s.

Earlier, police authorities in the province identified six of the nine villages as "red" areas.

These are Barangays Catagan, Kimat, Paiton, Matugnao, Sicot and Owayan, which are found at the foot of the Malindang mountain ranges.

The ranges that straddle Zamboanga del Sur were notorious for hosting various training fields for the NPA.

Raymundo said that Barangay Catagan is playing a major role in the NPA's renewed activities because this is where guerrillas find shelter.

This is also where the NPAs have allegedly set up a shadow government.

However, when he appeared before the city council here, Raymundo said there was no cause for alarm.

He assured city officials that troops are already deployed to the areas to serve as a security buffer and deterrent to any strikes that the NPAs could be planning.

He said on the recruitment activities, the NPA targets young men, who belong to extremely impoverished families.

Raymundo said that winning back those who have already been active in the communist movement entails more than a military solution.

He said there is a need to address poverty, ignorance, diseases and perceived injustices.

Raymundo said that, initially, out-of-school youth education and sports program could help lure the youth away from the influence of the insurgents. *Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

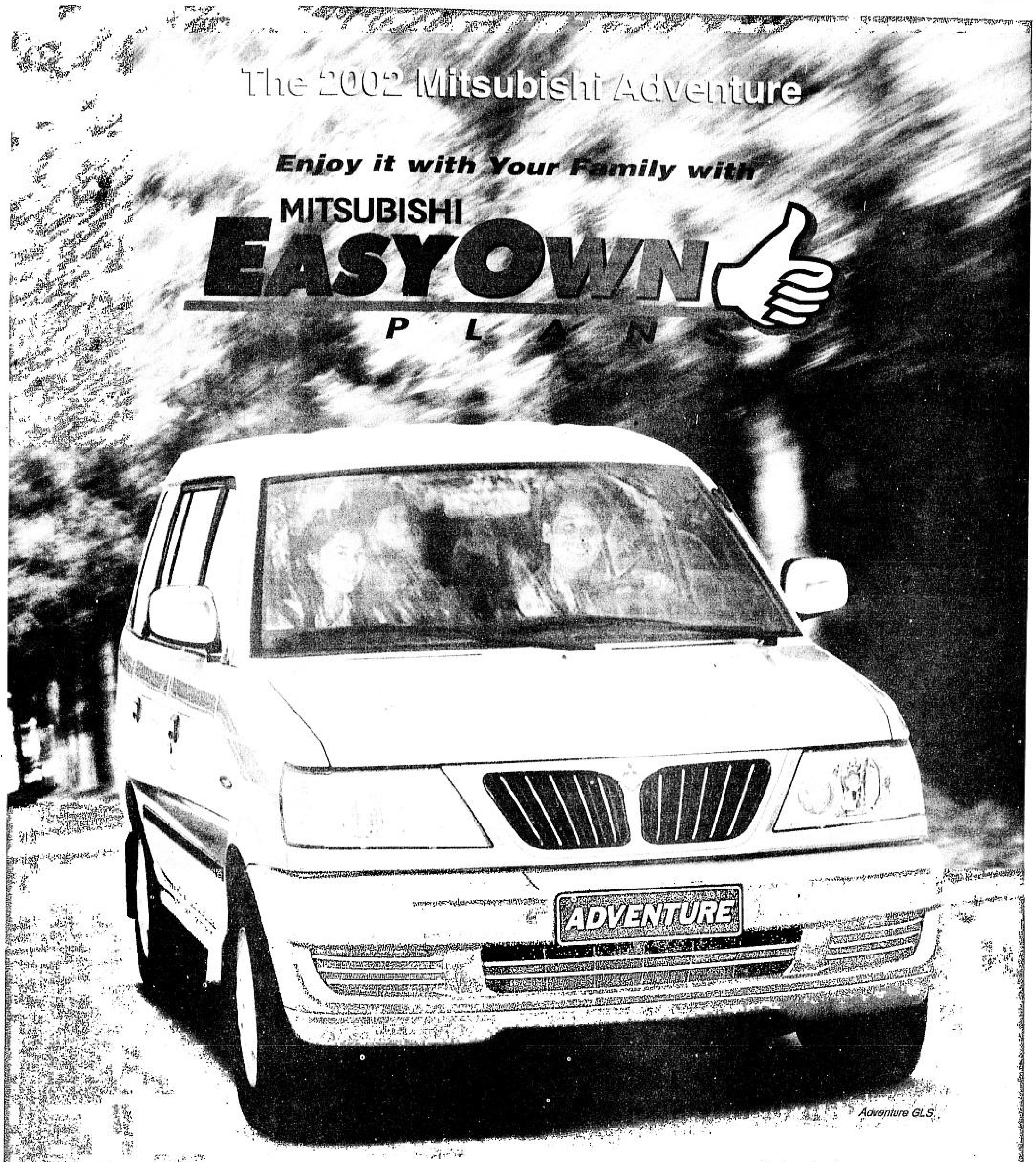
DPWH execs indicted

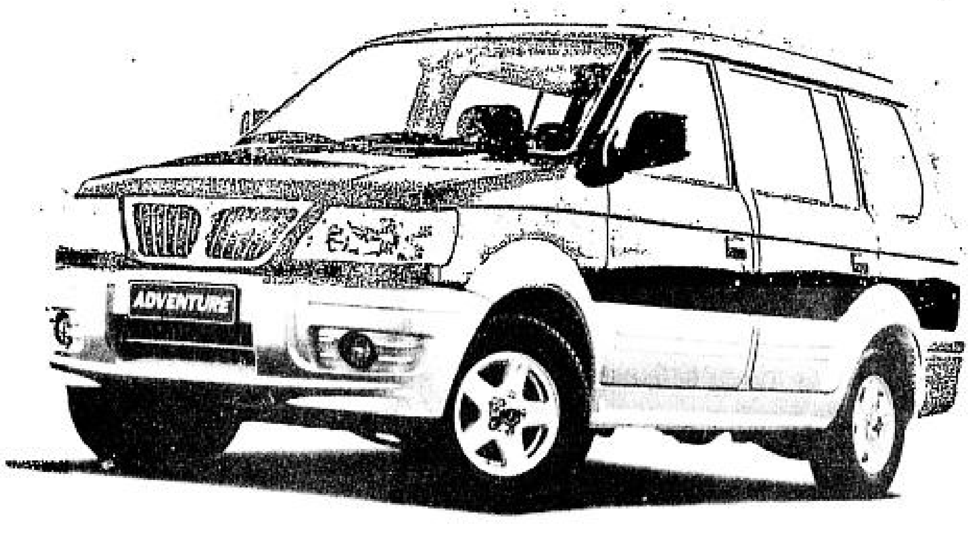
NAGA CITY—A panel of government prosecutors has indicted 16 officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways, a contractor and a publisher of a local tabloid in connection with the defective implementation of a road project in Milaor, Camarines Sur.

The three-man panel, which assistant provincial prosecutor Antonio V. Ramos chairs, found reasonable ground that the DPWH officials of the second engineering district in Camarines Sur participated in the rigged bidding of the P1.41-million Mayaopayawan-San Antonio road project.

Indicted in a case of violating the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act were Gilbert Olfindo, district engineer; Calixto Ballatan Jr., assistant district engineer; Teresita Demabasa, accountant; Amelia Fajardo, project engineer, and Irma Palma, cashier.

Also included in the anti-graft case were Guilbert P. Romero, Eduardo A. Alejo, Luis Zamudio and Victorino. del Soccoro Jr., who are all members of the estimating committee of the DPWH here. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*





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GLS Diesel M/T	725,000	**100,000**	29,049	20,858
Super Sport Diesel M/T	775,000	134,000	31,066	22,306
Super Sport Gas M/T	755,000	130,000	30,259	21,727
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*All Plans Subject to Bank Approval

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Model	SRP	50% D/P	36 mos.	60 mos.
GLX Gas M/T	650,000	322,500	11,104	8,107
Diesel M/T	675,000	335,000	11,534	8,421
GLS Gas M/T	710,000	352,500	12,137	8,861
Gas A/T	745,000	370,000	12,739	9,301
GLS Diesel M/T	725,000	360,000	12,395	9,049
Super Sport Diesel M/T	775,000	385,000	13,256	9,678
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Governor weeps over deaths

(From page A1)

land, erupted, killing 500 people.

There was power outage in most part of the island.

Telephone lines, except in Mambajao and Sagay, were down.

A power outage was also reported in Southern Leyte and Panay Island, where the provinces of Iloilo, Aklan, Capiz and Antique are located, since Wednesday until yesterday.

Romualdo said the typhoon heavily damaged all roads in the province. "The highway appeared like a riverbed, and you could see uprooted trees," Romualdo said.

But he said "we really don't care much about restoring the damaged infrastructure as of now. What we are most concerned about is to find and retrieve victims still buried in mud," he said.

Picks and shovels

"We need volunteers, who have picks and shovels, to help search for the missing," regional Police Chief Rodolfo Caisip said. "We call on help from all government sectors."

Authorities in Camiguin, a 29,000-hectare island that is home to 74,000 people, said the toll might rise, as many may be buried under tons of mud.

One body turned up on a beach and others under piles of mud yesterday.

Searchers said they faced a daunting task because the destruction was so complete in some areas that it was difficult to tell where houses had stood before walls of water, mud and other debris crashed down while most people were still sleeping Wednesday.

Mass burial

In Mahinog town alone, which was hit by a whirlwind Tuesday evening, 72 bodies were recovered and were being kept at the municipal gymnasium for a mass burial.

Mahinog Mayor Benedicto Castañares said that most of the bodies had yet to be identified.

He said health officials and embalmers had joined hands in preserving some of the bodies for at least two days to give relatives time to claim their dead.

The severely affected village of Hubangon in Mahinog town, which the INQUIRER visited, was a virtual wasteland as rocks and mud buried houses and rice fields.

"The road which connects the village to the town has turned into a river because of the flood that followed the whirlwind," Castañares said.

Tremor

PO3 Romeo Jaquilmac, a resident of Barangay Hubangon, said he was awakened by a tremor that shook his house.

Jaquilmac, whose house was near the twister's path, said he immediately secured his children.

"I thought it was an earthquake. It was very powerful because my house appeared to be collapsing," he said.

Jaquilmac said he immediately grabbed his three daughters and brought them to the attic.

He said that when the tremor stopped he was surprised to see that the floor was covered with mud, and people were shouting outside.

When he went out, he saw "houses destroyed and neighbors looking for family members."

Camiguin officials said other towns were more fortunate than Mahinog. Four persons were killed in Mambajao; three in Catarman; and one in Sagay.

Assistance

Those who survived typhoon Nanang's onslaught in battered areas, numbering 1,028 families as of yesterday afternoon, had received assistance, according to Romualdo.

"Gov. Antonio Calingin of Misamis Oriental and Mayor Vicente Emano of the city government of Cagayan de Oro were among the first to extend help," Romualdo said.

He said the National Disaster Coordinating Council had sent 200 sacks of rice as initial aid to the victims.

Romualdo said Malacañang pledged to give assistance from President Macapagal-Arroyo's social fund.

The President said she had ordered the release of P2 million and 400 sacks of rice as initial assistance to the province.

Aborted visit

The President canceled a scheduled visit yesterday because the runway of the province's airport was covered with sand.

"It's impossible for the President to land here. She will be using a Lear jet. Only a C-130 has managed to land so far," Romualdo said.

But even without the President's presence, Romualdo said he was already satisfied with Malacañang's action and the President's personal message of "being one with us in our times of sorrow."

Instead of Ms Macapagal, Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman and other officials are expected here today to oversee rescue and relief efforts.

In Cagayan de Oro City, additional rescue and relief workers and a team of orthopedic surgeons sailed for Camiguin yesterday.

Butch Chan, spokesperson of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in Camiguin, said an initial assessment showed that some P80 million worth of crops and infrastructure were either destroyed or damaged.

The provincial government has yet to estimate the damage to roads, bridges and other infrastructure.

Death elsewhere

In the Visayas, the death toll rose to 27 after more drowning incidents were reported in Cebu and Negros Occidental.

At least 22 people remained missing—14 in Cebu, seven in Negros Occidental and one in Iloilo province.

Heavy rains spawned by Nanang also displaced some 8,777 families and caused millions of pesos in damage to infrastructure, crops and property in Cebu, Bohol, Negros Occidental, Iloilo, Antique, Capiz, Aklan, Leyte and Southern Leyte.

Local officials in Cebu City and Maasin City in Southern Leyte have declared their cities in a state of calamity. The provinces of Cebu, Negros Occidental and Iloilo are poised to issue a similar declaration to facilitate the release of emergency funds.

Cebu

In Cebu, the death toll rose to 19 after the Toledo City government declared dead the 14 persons trapped inside the collapsed mine at the compound of the Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. in Barangay Don Andres Soriano, some 14 km from the city proper.

Toledo City Mayor Arlene Espinosa-Zambo said it was impossible for the 14 to have survived considering that the mine was at least 100 meters deep. She added there was also a stream underneath the tunnel that had swelled due to heavy rains.

Operations to retrieve the bodies of the 14 were suspended because the ground was too soft.

Negros Occidental

In Negros Occidental, the Alimango Bridge in Binalbagan town collapsed at noon yesterday, while a bridge in La Castellana City was declared impassable.

Nanang also displaced some 5,241 families in the towns of Ilog, Hinigaran and Pulupandan, and the cities of Kabankalan, Victorias, Silay and Bago in Negros Occidental. A total of 486 families were displaced in Bacolod City.

Iloilo, Antique

In Iloilo, floods destroyed 31 houses and damaged 221 others.

A landslide was reported in Barangay Lopez Vito in San Joaquin town, rendering a portion of the national highway to Antique impassable.

In Antique, floods rendered impassable the Casay, Asluman and Sabay bridges.

In Aklan, all roads leading to the capital town of Kalibo remained impassable.

Blocked by either landslide or floodwaters were the national highways from Kalibo to Caticlan, Malay and the Buruanga town in the north; the Aklan-Capiz-Iloilo national road in the south; and the Kalibo-New Washington and Kalibo-Libacao roads.

Submerged

As of yesterday afternoon, about 80 percent of Kalibo was submerged in floodwater after the Aklan River overflowed due to heavy rains in the mountain towns of Madalag, Libacao and Malinao, all south of Kalibo.

The PDCC-Aklan reported that the floods damaged fishponds and crops worth about P3 million in Altavas town.

In Leyte and Southern Leyte, at least 500 families were displaced and more than P10 million worth of property and crops were destroyed.

The entire Southern Leyte has been without electricity since 3 p.m. on Wednesday after strong winds toppled down an electric post in the boundary of Ormoc City and Baybay town, in Leyte.

Maasin has also been placed under a state of calamity. The typhoon displaced 160 families and destroyed P10 million worth of property and crops, according to the Philippine National Red Cross.

In Leyte, at least 406 families from low-lying areas in Tacloban City were evacuated to safer grounds after their homes were flooded.

Rogelio Portula, assistant provincial agriculturist, said floods destroyed 195 hectares of rice field in the towns of Palo, Carigara, Dagami, La Paz, Palompon and Matalom.

In Bohol, the floods that hit several areas, including those near the Loboc River and some coastal villages, destroyed *palay* ready for harvest, according to Rito Tagaan, Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC) action officer.

Provincial administrator Antonio Amora Jr. said about 50 families were evacuated to the Trinidad Elementary School in Barangay Tabajan, Guindulman, a flood-prone area.

At dawn Tuesday, a fire broke out in a commercial district in Jagna town, destroying three houses and the Cruz Telephone Co. office. The fire spread quickly due to strong winds brought by the typhoon.

Bohol also suffered power interruptions as the National Power Corp. resorted to power rationing due to problems in the Bohol-Leyte Interconnection Project and other power generating units.

Albay and Catanduanes were also experiencing power interruptions, according to the Office of Civil Defense.

The OCD said the typhoon stranded 2,305 passengers in Albay and Sorsogon.

Most of them were stranded in Matnog, Sorsogon, where ferry services were suspended. ***With reports from Martin P. Marfil and Dona Pazzibugan in Manila; Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Debra Jane Magallon, Jhunnex Napallacan, Carla Gomez, Nestor Burgos Jr., Odon Bandiola, Jani Arnaiz, Cynthia Borgueta, Joey Gabieta and Chito A. Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Best place in Camiguin wiped out

(From page A1)

difficult to enter Sitio Kapagong, around 300 meters away from the highway. Only residents in Kapagong helped each other to survive.

PO3 Romeo Jaquilmac, a resident of Sitio Kapagong, said some of his neighbors were staying on the vacant lot at the back of his house.

Miracle

He said a miracle saved him, his three children and wife.

Jaquilmac said he woke up hearing a "thunder" and feeling a "tremor."

He immediately ordered his family to climb up the ceiling.

"We saw our beds, appliances floating. But the table, made of very light material and where the altar was placed, stood still. And so I embraced the statue Mother of Perpetual Help and prayed that the rocks would not hit my house. It was spared," a teary eyed Jaquilmac recounted.

When the "tremor" ended, Jaquilmac went out of the house. He saw two houses "turned upside down."

He vowed to leave the home were he grew up as he could not bear remembering those who died.

Walking around the area is also very difficult.

Aside from fallen coconut trees and rampaging floodwaters, one has to be extra cautious, making sure not to step on bodies buried in mud.

Rescue team

The rescue team has only three chainsaws. They manually pull out debris in houses where dead bodies were believed buried.

Seph Boncayao and his wife Julianita lost all their four children, aged 2 to 8.

Two of the children have been found. The other two remain missing.

"We were holding our children but when water rushed inside our house we lost hold of them. We were able to cling to a coconut tree but the water flushed our children," Julianita said.

NBI hot on trail of one suspect

(From page A1)

sons recorded to be inside the building at the time of the attack, estimated at between Tuesday midnight and 5 a.m. Wednesday.

"We will question those whose names appeared in the (building's exit-entry) logbook," he said.

NBI agents yesterday interviewed security guards and construction workers at the Atlanta Center, as well as Blanca's driver.

The source also said the NBI was examining Blanca's insurance policy.

PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza held a case conference yesterday morning with members of Task Force Marsha. At a 5 p.m. briefing for reporters, Mendoza said "we have collated documentary and physical evidence but we cannot as yet determine the exact motive or point to a person or group behind the killing."

Pepito Vera-Perez of the prominent show biz clan has proposed that industry members help raise to P1 million the P300,000 reward offered by San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito to anyone who could provide information leading to the capture of Blanca's killer/s.

Annabelle Rama, one of Blanca's close friends, quoted Vera-Perez as saying that most of the show biz members who were told about this incentive were amenable to the proposal.

"We will try to talk to stars, producers and other show biz people to contribute so we can come up with P1 million," Rama told the INQUIRER. That way, we can help speed up the process of solving the crime."

No sign of struggle

NBI medico-legal chief Dr. Maximo Reyes said Blanca's 13 stab wounds, particularly in her left armpit, suggested that there were probably more than one killer and that she did not fight off her assailants.

"It is my opinion that there could be one or two," Reyes said, adding that there were no signs of a struggle inside Blanca's car and that she had a midnight snack, possibly even with her killers.

Blanca's body was discovered inside her green Nissan Sentra sedan at the sixth floor of the Atlanta Center. She was last seen alive around 5 p.m. Tuesday after coming from the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board office at the building's 33rd floor. The time of death was pegged at 4-5 a.m.

"It's also possible that she knew her assailant, who was certainly a sadist. *Gigil na gigil*. There was an intention to kill," Reyes said.

He said that of the five stab wounds in Blanca's face, only two stab wounds were fatal and the rest were "shallow, around 3 to 5 centimeters deep."

"The stab wounds in her face were one on top of each other, running from just below her left eye downward," Reyes said.

The fourth and fifth wounds were fatal because it reached the larynx and jugular vein.

The body also had five stab wounds in the left armpit, two wounds just above the buttocks, and the last one at the back of the left ear.

Two of the bones on both rib cages were broken, with the one on the left puncturing the lung.

"Somebody else must have held her left arm and then stabbed her in her armpit," Reyes said.

He said Blanca was not able to shout for help because the "sharp, pointed single-bladed" weapon reached her windpipe.

He also said the killer/s might have first beat Blanca until she fell unconscious and thus unable to put up a fight. Both of the eyes bore bruises.

"If she had put up a fight, then she would have wounds in her arms," Reyes said. "The buttons on her long sleeves were also intact."

He added that there were no cracks in the skull or rope marks on other parts of the body. The nails were intact. The private parts tested negative for semen.

Back seat

Reyes said what blood there was in Blanca's car had not yet dried at the time of discovery and was concentrated on the back seat. There was no other trace of blood elsewhere in the car except for a very small amount on the driver's seat.

"This could also mean that she might have been stabbed in another car and was only dumped there," he said.

But despite the wounds, he said, Blanca would have been saved if she were found even as late as 6 a.m.

Contrary to an earlier report, Reyes found newly digested food in Blanca's stomach.

"The food was digested but her system had not yet absorbed (it). This means she ate around midnight or 1 a.m.," he said.

According to Reyes, the human body absorbs food six hours after ingestion.

It is also possible that more than one knife was used.

Reyes added: "Based on the shallowness of the stab wounds, there is a possibility that the assailant was a woman."

Movements

Supt. George Aliño, director of the Eastern Police District Office (EPDO), told the INQUIRER that investigators were tracing Blanca's movements in the days prior to her death as well as the people she had contact with.

"We are looking everywhere. We are searching every nook and cranny of her life to determine who could have the motivation to kill her," Aliño said.

Sources at the EPDO headquarters told the INQUIRER that investigators had prepared a list of people to be interviewed, including members of the MTRCB.

Supt. Rodrigo Degracia, San Juan municipal police chief and a member of Task Force Marsha, cleared Blanca's driver of any involvement in the killing.

At the Senate, Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel condemned Blanca's killing and urged the PNP and NBI to exhaust all efforts to get the suspects.

"How terrible," said Pimentel. "I denounce the senseless killing of Nida Blanca. It's a sad commentary on the state of law and order in the country."

He said that the murder was another blow to the police force, and that law enforcers should be prodded to shape up.

Sen. Robert Barbers, chair of the Senate committee on public order and safety, said the killing should be condemned by all peace-loving people.

He said the PNP should be pressured into solving the murder. ***With reports from Leah Salterio, Nelson F. Flores and Cynthia D. Balana***

They all came . . .

(From page A1)

Blanca in the now-defunct ABS-CBN sitcom, "Pwedeng-Pwede," was among those who came to mourn.

"She was like a mother to me," Padilla told the INQUIRER.

He added: "When I was confined at the De Los Santos General Hospital, she even visited me.

"She was happy for me when I did the sitcom, after I got out of jail. She was very caring and always concerned. One time, we taped in Laguna and she scolded the crew when I was left behind on an island."

Other show biz personalities who came to Blanca's wake yesterday were Susan Roces, Phillip Salvador, Rosa Rosal, Tony Ferrer, Charlie Davao, Inday Badiday, Noel Trinidad, Carmi Martin, Johnny Delgado and Laurice Guillen, and former actor Manding Claro.

President Macapagal-Arroyo herself said she was mourning the death of her "favorite actress."

She yesterday recalled to reporters how, as a young girl in Iligan, she would travel from their farmhouse to the city by *calesa* or by car just to watch Blanca's films co-starring Nestor de Villa.

"Even our driver would watch her films," the President said, adding that she was deeply saddened by the killing.

The President said that when she revamped the Movies and Television Review and Classification Board on assuming office, she retained the actress "because this is Nida Blanca."

At the wake, MTRCB member Ed Sicam remembered Blanca as a conscientious co-worker.

"Whenever she would review a film or a movie, she always had this notebook where she wrote down her notes," Sicam said. "She was also very prompt and very studious."

Dante Jimenez and Lauro Vizconde of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption also came to pledge their support in solving Blanca's murder.

Peaceful death

A few days before her body was found Wednesday, Blanca told her friend Gloria Romero that she wished for "a peaceful death."

Romero said she ran into Blanca, her contemporary at LVN Pictures, while they were both shopping at Rustan's Department Store last week.

While waiting for their purchases, the two movie queens talked about their common friend, former LVN child actress Nenita Vidal (Bong Eraña), who was in a coma at that time.

Vidal died last week and Blanca was to take part in prayers for her at Forbes Park in Makati City Tuesday night.

"I even told her that she looked good when we saw each other," Romero said. "Then we talked about Bong Eraña. And she told me, 'When it's my time to go, I'd like to have a peaceful death.'"

Romero tearfully recalled yesterday in a radio interview her long friendship with Blanca.

She said their most memorable movie together was "Anak ni Waray vs Anak ni Biday." In that comedy directed by Maryo J. de los Reyes, they shared top billing with Maricel Soriano and Snooky Serna, who played their respective daughters.

"There was this scene in the movie where all four of us were supposed to ride a *calesa* going up a hill," Romero said. "I didn't want to do it, but Nida told me not to be nervous. At the end of the scene, we all made it to the top of the hill, but the horse collapsed."

Cremation

Blanca's remains will be cremated—as the actress wished, according to Elena de la Paz, who served as her assistant for 45 years,

De la Paz said she found it unbelievable that the actress would meet such a gruesome end.

"I cannot imagine her death to be like this," she told the INQUIRER. "It shook the entire movie industry."

Blanca's white covered casket arrived at the White Plains Chapel around 11 p.m. Wednesday.

The casket is surrounded with white orchids and candelabra and a huge black-and-white portrait, showing the radiant actress in a *terno* when she was crowned Queen of Philippine Movies in 1964, stands beside it. On top of the casket sit four smaller and more recent photos.

Ace comedian Dolphy, who played John to Blanca's Marsha in the TV sitcom that ran for 16 years, came with Zsa Zsa Padilla on that same night.

"All the people who are close to me in this business are now gone," a grieving Dolphy said. "Nida is a very good person. I love her. She doesn't deserve this kind of death."

Also there on the first night of Blanca's wake were Maricel Soriano, who played her daughter in the sitcom; her movie partner Nestor de Villa; Sharon Cuneta, who worked with her in a couple of films; and Diether Ocampo, her co-star in her last big-screen appearance in "Ano Ba'ng Meron Ka."

Even the President was present, and yesterday she told reporters that she picked up leads on possible suspects from the casual conversations she made there.

She said she immediately phoned Director General Leandro Mendoza, chief of the Philippine National Police, who then showed up at the wake.

"I said (to Mendoza), 'Let's not wait (until the wake is over). Interview those who believe they have leads,'" she disclosed.

Earlier Wednesday, the President ordered Mendoza to get to the bottom of the crime and vowed that the murderers would be punished "to the fullest extent of the law." ***With a report from Dona Pazzibugan***

Is Atlanta Center liable for Nida's death?

BY LUIGE A. DEL PUERTO

IS the Atlanta Center liable in any way for the death of Nida Blanca?

Not yet, says Chief Supt. George Aliño, head of the Eastern Police District Office.

"We're not thinking about that angle yet. It's too early to say. Right now, all we want to focus on is the investigation of the crime itself," Aliño said in a phone interview.

But head investigator Col. Rodrigo de Gracia believes the building may not have enough security forces.

"Investigation has shown that five floors are being patrolled by only one guard," he said in another phone interview. "Personally, I think that's not enough."

De Gracia, however, said the question of whether or not the building failed in its security arrangement was "immaterial."

"It's the prerogative of the building administration to deploy its own security forces, but there is a law which says at least 5 percent of your gross income should go to security," he said. "We have not, however, looked into that yet. Still, that angle has no bearing."

Aliño is apprehensive that an investigation of the criminal or civil liability of the building administration would "keep the focus away" from getting Blanca's killer(s).

He said they would only investigate the security-lapse angle if the occupants of the commercial building would file complaints to that effect, or if security forces were found involved in the crime.

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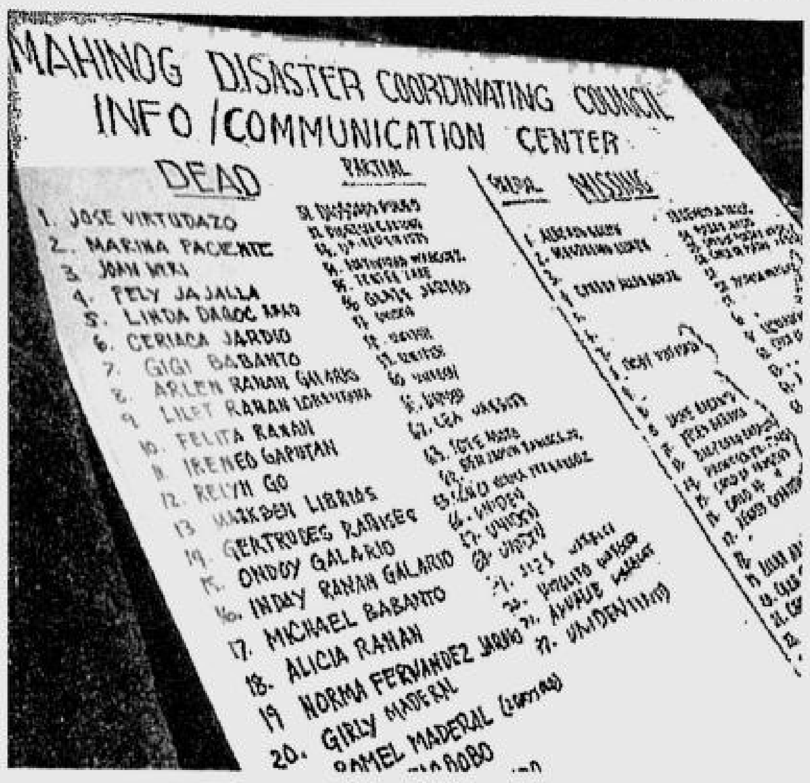

A DOOMSDAY listing of the dead and the missing in Mahinog town, Camiguin.
EDWIN BACASMAS

No to red, white, blue Hollywood

(From page A1)

sign red, white and blue.

But there are limits to the wave of patriotism sweeping the United States.

A Los Angeles city council committee has rejected the suggestion of councilman Eric Garcetti that the giant white letters "HOLLYWOOD" be repainted for two weeks starting Nov. 11, Veterans Day.

The parks and recreation committee said the sign was a historical monument and could not be altered.

"We're not going to paint the White House red, white and blue," said councilman Tom LaBonge.

But Garcetti still believes in his proposal.

"Some people have talked about the events of the last few months as a national nightmare. And Hollywood is, as we all know, the repository of America's dreams, and I think the dream factory wants to give something back," his spokesperson said.

The Hollywood sign is perched atop Mount Lee, the tallest peak in Los Angeles. It stands 45 feet high and is 450 feet long.

It was erected in 1923 as an advertising sign for a real estate development in Beachwood Canyon. The sign originally read "Hollywoodland." The last four letters were removed in 1945, after Hollywood became the world's movie capital.

Boosting morale

Even so, President Bush's top political adviser will huddle in Hollywood with show biz executives on Sunday to seek their help in boosting America's morale and in crafting the government's message for its war on terrorism.

About 40 film and television studio chieftains have been invited to the summit with Bush aide Karl Rove in Beverly Hills.

Rich Taylor, a spokesperson for the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), said the White House had not furnished an exact agenda for the meeting.

But he said participants were likely to discuss ideas for public service announcements and other material that would "keep the morale of troops up and keep support on the home front strong."

"There are a number of possibilities, messages that could go out through the Armed Forces Network, domestically as well as to troops stationed abroad," Taylor said.

What is not likely is a resurgence of the kind of jingoistic, patriotic musicals and combat dramas that flourished after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

"This is a different time, a different place and a different war," said Mark McKinnon, a media director for the Bush campaign.

"This is not going to be people running around in Jeeps with 16 mm cameras filming documentaries in the Afghan mountains," he said.

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, Hollywood released a series of films that stirred patriotic sentiments or brought the public closer to the war, such as "This is the Army," "Casablanca," "Mrs. Miniver," "Wake Island," and "Torpedo Boat."

Gutless coward

In London meanwhile, the chief executive of British Airways branded Hollywood's film celebrities "gutless cowards" for being scared to fly since the Sept. 11 attacks.

"They want everyone to see their movies and think how big and brave they are. But at the first sign of trouble they cower under their beds like gutless cowards. It's pathetic," BA chief executive Rod Eddington was quoted as saying in the British tabloid Mirror.

Eddington praised New Yorkers, who he said had started flying again, but attacked US celebrities, saying they had "retired to their mansions" when they should be acting as role models encouraging the public to take to the skies again.

Eddington made the outspoken comments as the world's fastest passenger jet, the supersonic Concorde, returned to service on Wednesday.

A number of British personalities, including pop star Sting and broadcaster David Frost, were among those on the first British Airways Concorde flight to New York since an Air France Concorde crashed shortly after takeoff from Paris last year. *Reports from AFP, Reuters, AP*

Solon . . .

(From page A1)

Marcos displayed during World War II was negated by the 20 years he served as dictator and puppet of foreign powers," the labor leader-turned-politician said in a statement.

For her part, Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales urged the Department of National Defense to prioritize the granting of pension to poor widows.

"There are thousands of widows who are not getting their pensions so the defense department should give priority to the others who are more deserving," Rosales said.

She and Beltran reminded that the Marcoses plundered the country during their reign and that the late President was responsible for policies that saw the execution, torture and human rights violations of many Filipinos.

"The Marcoses and their cronies plundered the country for 20 years and inflicted the brutality of martial law on the Filipino people. There is no honor in this—only infamy," he said.

Beltran said the approval of Marcos' pension was an insult not only to all war veterans out also to the millions of Filipino pensioners and retirees.

"Imelda didn't even have to lift a finger to get these benefits. And it is not as if Marcos needs the money; she has all those jewelry and property. And her children are more than able to support her," he said.

Instead of giving Ms Marcos a pension, the national government should give the funds to the improvement of services for "genuine" war veterans and their families, Beltran said.

Beltran expressed the belief that there was more to the pension given to the former first lady.

"There's a compromise going on here between the Macapagal administration and the Marcoses," he said. "The pension is just the tip of the iceberg."

He said the government should not consider allowing the burial of the late dictator in the Libingan ng Bayani.

In Laoag City, Ilocos Norte Gov, Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. said not even newspaper advertisements could compel the Marcoses to pay martial law victims.

The governor said Wednesday that the 9,539 people claiming to be victims of his father's regime must obtain judgment in the Philippines instead of depending solely on a 1995 decision of a court in the United States that ordered the Marcoses to pay them $2 billion.

He also advised the claimants to start their own settlement talks with the government on how the money they were supposed to receive from an escrow account under government control could be released.

With a report from Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bu-

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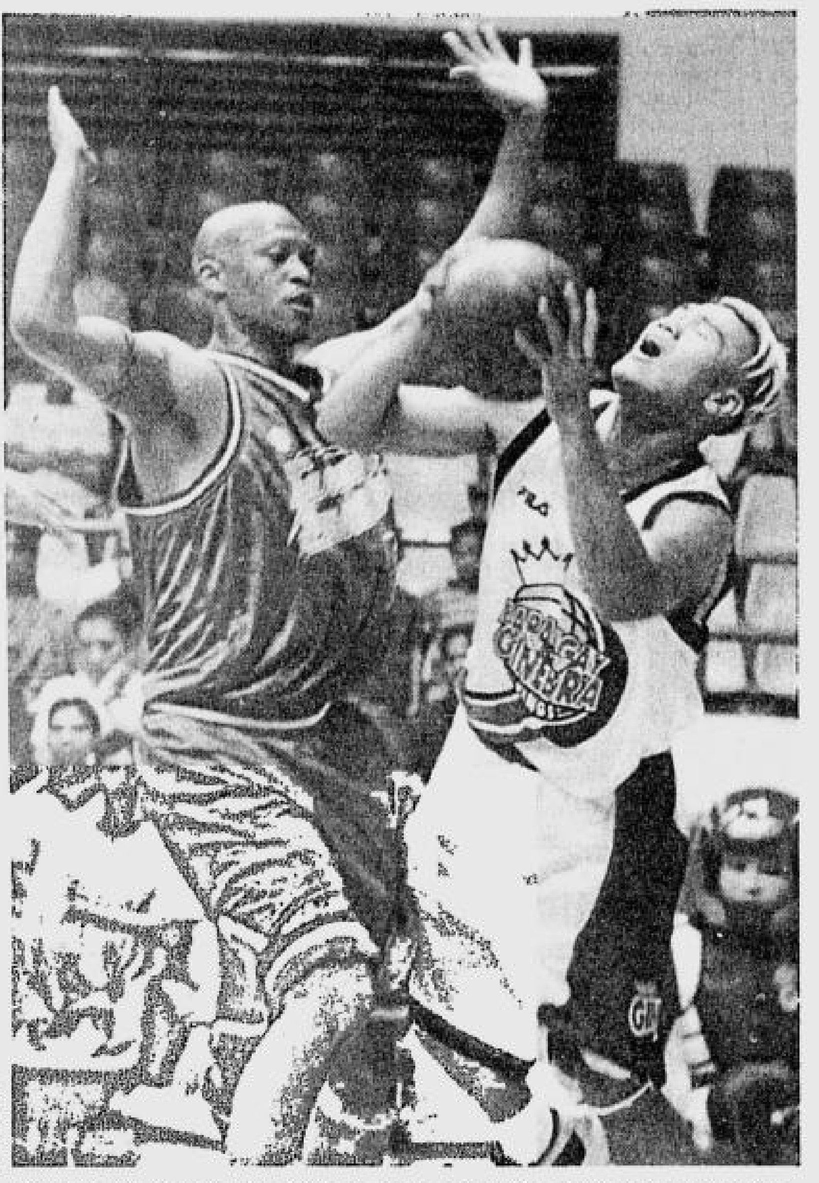
Shell seeks share of lead vs P'foods



FILE PHOTO

ROB Wainwright (left) of Shell challenging Ginebra's Mark Caguioa.

Standings	W	L
Sta. Lucia	8	4
Shell	7	4
Talk N Text	7	5
San Miguel	6	6
Pop Cola	6	6
Red Bull	6	6
Ginebra	5	7
Alaska	5	7
Tanduay	5	7
Purefoods	4	7

Games Today (Philsports)
5:05p.m.—Shell vs Purefoods
7:10p.m.—Tanduay vs Ginebra
Wednesday's results
Tanduay d. Talk N Text, 99-82
Red Bull d. San Miguel, 86-81

SHELL tries to secure a twice-to-beat advantage when the Turbo Chargers face the Purefoods TJ Hotdogs tonight in the PBA Governors Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Having won three of their last four outings, the Turbo Chargers are the sentimental picks going into the 5:05 p.m. setto where a setback for the Hotdogs would push them on the brink of an early Christmas vacation.

Psychologically, the Turbo Chargers have the edge to notch their eighth win and tie Sta. Lucia Realty at the top as they had beaten the Hotdogs, 95-94, during their first encounter more than a month ago.

Both squads defeated the Realtors recently with their imports doing most of the damage. The Derrick Brown-spiked Hotdogs trounced the Realtors, 127-118, before Askia Jones carried the Turbo Chargers to a 111-88 romp last week.

Tanduay and Barangay Ginebra, both flaunting identical 5-7 records at the lower flight of the standings, tangle in the other match with the winner closing in on at least a playoff for the last quarterfinal slot.

Ana upsets Shark

GAMES TOMORROW
(Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m.—Shark vs Kutitap
4 p.m.—Blu vs Montaña

By Dennis U. Eroa

NEVER-SAY-DIE Ana Freezers claimed the scalp of defending champion Shark Energy Drink, 72-67, in overtime last night in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Five days after losing by 35 points to bemedalled Welcoat, Ana redeemed its pride, shocking sluggish Shark with its free-flowing and unorthodox type of basketball.

In the first game, Ren Ren Ritualo and Jojo Manalo waxed hot from the outside as Welcoat Paints registered its second straight win by downing Montaña Jewels, 98-84. Montaña dropped to 0-2.

Six-foot-3 Roland Pascual mocked the defenses of 6-foot-7 Irvin Sotto, scoring six straight points as the Freezer Kings shattered a 63-63 deadlock for a 69-63 lead, 35 seconds left.

Slotman Ariel de Castro sank two gift shots as the Freezer Kings posted a 58-55 lead, but Shark's Rolly Basilides forced the overtime with a three-point shot, 10 seconds remaining.

Eduque, legendary coach, dies of cancer

EDUQUE

LEGENDARY basketball coach Valentin "Tito" Eduque died at 7 a.m. yesterday after a heart attack spawned by cancer. He was 74. His body lies at the La Salle Greenhills Chapel in Mandaluyong City

Eduque saw action for La Salle from 1947 to 1950, playing starring roles as the Archers won the NCAA championship twice before leading Yco to Micaa titles from 1953 to 1957.

He coached the La Salle Green Archers from 1964 to 1976, winning three crowns for the school. One of his star players was the famous Lim Eng Beng.

Eduque also coached Ysmael and Meralco to Micaa championships from 1958 to 1969.

His legacy extends to the national teams, steering the Philippines to the 1973 Asian Basketball Confederation championship.

Among his players in that champion team were the late Tembong Melencio and Larry Mumar, who died only recently.

Also in that team were Robert Jaworski, Dave Regullano, Francis Arnaiz, Joy Cleofas, Manny Paner, Marte Samson, Yoyong Martirez, Big Boy Reynoso, Jimmy Mariano, Rey Franco, Jenny Lucindo and Bogs Adornado. Before that, Eduque piloted the Philippine quintet to a third-place finish in the third Asian Games in Tokyo.

Eduque, who founded the highly-successful Triple V chain of restaurants that include Kamayan, Saisaki and Islands Fisherman, also coached several PBA teams like the Mariwasa-Akai, Concepcion Industries and Manila Beer.

His stints with the Mariwasa squad saw him make imports Billy Robinson and Cisco Oliver household names in Philippine basketball.

Interment will be announced later.

Arcilla moves up

JOMAR Arcilla and JV Cruz downed separate rivals yesterday to reach the second-round qualifying of the P400,000 Philippine Columbian Association Open Tennis Championships at the PCA indoor courts.

Arcilla defeated Mandy Ochoa, 10-7, to advance against Ronnie Ogena, a 10-1 winner over Gian Karlo Reynoso while Cruz downed Raffy Santiago, 10-5, to advance against Nasty Sabas, who scored a 10-3 win over John Amita.

In other matches, Chimuel Mantua beat Frank Paguyo, 10-5, Noel Manalo trounced Paolo Olbes, 10-5, and Andrew Gil Garcia clobbered Reynante de Castro, 10-6.

Other first-round winners were Allan Agulto over Zoren Legaspi, 10-8, Inigo Cageron over Chase Tinio, 10-8, Elbert Anasta over Jack Romarate, 10-4, Andre Cruz over Giovanni Morte, 10-8, and Renato Oligo over Ariel Mariano, 10-6.

The main draw will start on Nov. 10 with Johnny Arcilla as the No. 1 seed followed by Korean Song Hyeong-Keun, Adelo Abadia, Joseph Victorino, Michael Misa, Dio Ferrari, Ian de Guzman, Eddie Gomez, Barry Lee and Peterson Lee.

Koreans Kim Hye-Jin and Kim Yoo-Jeong; Indians Radhika Tulpule, Shruti Dhawan, Sonal Phadke and Radhika Mandke; and top locals Czarina Mae Arevalo and Charise Gódoy are competing in the women's division.

Winners will earn P80,000 (men's singles), P40,000 (women's singles), P60,000 (men's doubles), P20,000 (women's doubles) and P20,000 (mixed doubles).

Lakers vs Knights

Games Today
(San Juan Gym)
3 p.m.—TPG Davao vs LBC Batangas
5:30 p.m.—FedEx Laguna vs Andok's S. Juan

THE ELIMINATION round is far from over, but today's tussle between FedEx Laguna and Andok's San Juan is crucial as to how the Northern Conference semifinal would shape up in the MBA Second Phase at the San Juan Gym. The Lakers are on a five-game roll and another win over the Knights at 5:30 p.m. will further bolster their claim of the No. 2 spot.

Payatas golfest for kids

SOME 150 golfers will join the 2001 Payatas Charity Golf Classic on Nov. 13 at the Alabang Country Club. Tee off is at 6:30 a.m.

Proceeds of the tournament will benefit the children of scavenger families in Payatas, Quezon City.

Since 1999, the Payatas Charity Golf Classic Tournament has helped feed, educate and provide for the medical and dental needs of more than 120 underprivileged children of Payatas under the community transformation of Operation Blessing (OB).

Prizes include a pension plan worth P1 million for the first hole-in-one, plus two round-trip business class tickets to Singapore, courtesy of the Prudential Life Plan Group.

Hole sponsors are Swire Travel Philippines, Hans Brumann, SRC, Citra Metro Manila Tollways, Pizza Hut, Alpha Omega Foundation, Rogin-E, Nestle Philippines, ABS-CBN, H.B. Lotilla Construction, and Motorola. Meanwhile, raffle sponsors include Le Souffle, Pan West Sports, PAC Sports and Cathay Pacific.

Call 817-7622 or 751-6751/54 for more details.

Soon senior care champ

BUSINESSMAN Pablo Soon, coming out fresh from the long weekend, fired 43 points to crown himself the overall champion in the inaugural Senior Care Fellowship Golf Classic recently at the Sta. Elena Golf Club course.

Soon bested a field of 87 cardholders of the popular Seniors program of the Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines, Inc. (FGCPI) who showed up for the 18-hole tourney played in excellent weather.

Fred Masigan and Jovito Cavite combined for 75 points to top the blind partnership competition, denying Soon's bid for a sweep as his partnership with Joseph Lee lost out in the countback.

Lawyer Joe B. Abejo, chair of the FGCPI Senior Care program, and tournament chair Rey Adriano gladly announced during the awards rites that the Senior Care Classic shall now become a yearly major activity.

Former Rep. Gilberto Duavit was the major backer, with Philippine Airlines, Ford Phils., the Philippine Sports Commission, San Miguel Corporation and Custom Clubmakers as hole sponsors. Northwest and Weinstein provided the hole-in-one prize while Citra Tollways, PX Wines and Golf and Nivea came in as donors.

Zoleta double champion

BAMBI Zoleta edged Gerard Ngo, 7-5, 6-2, to bag the unisex 10-under division then outclassed Jessica Agra, 6-2, 6-2, in the girls' 12-under to become a double titlist at the close of the Adidas Tennis Challenge 2001 recently at the Philam Homes Tennis Club.

Bambi, who competes in the Malaysia Junior tennis Circuit starting today, shared the limelight with elder sister Bien Zoleta in the girls' 14-under, Berry Sepulveda of Cebu in the girls' 16-under, Ivy de Castro in the junior women's 21-under, Johnwill Baldonado in the boys' 12-under, Arithmetico Lim in the boys' 14-under, Jandrick de Castro in the boys' 16-under and Gabby Remigio in the junior men's 21-under.

Goody Custodio, Adidas trade and promo officer, awarded the glass trophies to the winners in the final leg of the nationwide Adidas Tennis Challenge organized by the CTW and supported by Milo and Sports Kids.

Bien whipped Catherine Flores, 6-2, 6-2; Sepulveda edged Bien, 6-1, 7-6; Ivy routed Jay-ann Dizon, 6-1, 6-1; Baldonado downed Korean Chong Soo Han, 6-2, 6-2; Lim outclassed Kyle Dandan, 7-5, 6-1; Jandrick demolished Nestor Celestino, 6-2, 6-3, and Remigio tripped Ghande Matunog, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4.

U-Bix golf list swells beyond target

THE ENTRY list has swelled beyond the targeted 80 teams, forcing organizers of the U-Bix Riviera Pro-Am Golf Championship to carefully screen the final roster for the four-day event at Riviera's Langer course in Silang, Cavite.

The tournament is set for Nov. 14-17, with Nov. 13 reserved for the Celebrity Pro-Am.

A Toyota Altis has been staked as a hole-in-one prize, courtesy of Toyota Motor Philippines through Danny Isla, TMP's first VP for marketing.

"We are overwhelmed by the response but we have to be very careful," said Comm. Danny Pizarro, chair of the organizing committee. "Our final list should only contain the country's topnotch parbusters to ensure the integrity of the Pro-Am."

Pizarro said the nation's Top 30 pros are automatically seeded in the tournament bankrolled mainly by Bert Bravo's U-Bix Corporation in cooperation with Konica Corporation.

"But, of course, I would like to express my gratitude to San Miguel Beer, which has come back to renew its ties with the Pro-Am," said Pizarro. "San Miguel has always been an original supporter of the event since its birth in 1958."

Among the other major supporters include DHL Philippines through Rod Feliciano, Herma's Group through Hermie Esguerra and Mizuno through Lovell Gopez.

Also supporting the tournament are Fortune Tobacco (care of Gen. Antonio Abaya), Mayor Joey Marquez of Parañaque City, Roche International, Foremost, Cinnabon Rolls, Vic Sotto's Travel Bug, Solahart, Caffe Appassionato on N. Garcia Street (Makati), Citgo, Pivo Praha beer, Citra Tollways, Golden Grove Estates, Bravo Golf, Bel-Air Bakery and Cena Restaurant on Libis, Q.C.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1996, the Philippines placed eighth in men's synchronized kata, matching its finish in Malaysia two years ago at the 13th World Karate Championships in Sun City, South Africa.

Zone defense

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

SINCE 1990, when the Philippine Basketball Association was first tasked to represent the country in the cage competitions of the Asian Games, Filipinos have been obsessed with winning the gold medal in the quarterfinal meet.

The last time the Philippines won the basketball gold in the Asian Games was in 1962 in Jakarta under former Ysmael Steel coach Enrique Crame. The country also won the cage championships in the inaugural Games in 1951 in New Delhi under multititled Chito Calvo; 1956 in Manila under master bench tactician Herminio Silva; and 1958 in Tokyo under battle-tested Tito Eduque, who died of lung cancer only the other day.

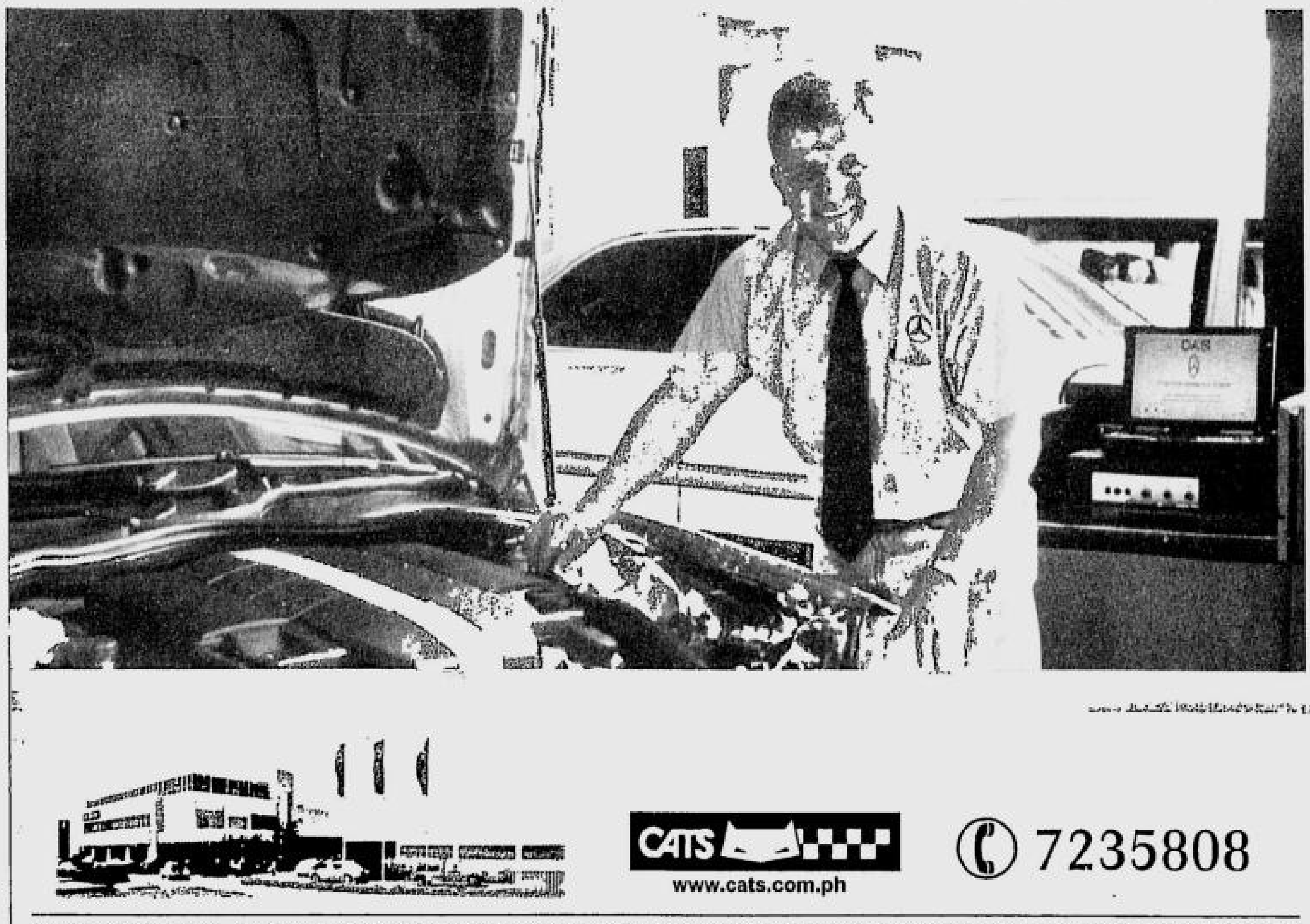
On the other hand, the PBA made a respectable debut in the Asiad in Beijing in 1990 when a PBA All-Star team, coached by now Sen. Robert Jaworski, finished second behind powerhouse China; another PBA squad, mentored by Norman Black and composed mostly of San Miguel Beer standouts, placed fourth in Hiroshima in 1994; while the PBA Centennial Team, mentored by Tim Cone, landed third in Bangkok in 1998.

Next year, to make the Philippines truly competitive in the Pusan Games, PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardio recently proposed several changes, including the adoption of the zone defense, to the league's board of governors.

"We want to make these changes work," he said. "After all, our main goal is to win the Asian Games gold. But to do it, we must do what is necessary to ensure victory in South Korea, and that includes playing the zone defense."

"The whole world plays zone defense," basketball diehard Rico Xeres of Greenhills once said. "All the teams in Asia, Europe and South America play zone. We should start playing zone defense because if we don't, we will always be at a disadvantage when playing in international tournaments."

Recall that in the 1998 Asiad, the PBA players actually even outrebounded the more experienced, well-traveled and more skillful Chinese cagers. But it was the Chinese's fastbreak plays and the Filipinos' poor outside shooting that led to our defeat. In that Bangkok bash, our tall men were even able to stop and outscore China's star centers Wang Zhizhi and Battir Menk, which means that the Philippines has a good chance of beating China (and host South Korea) in the Pusan Games.



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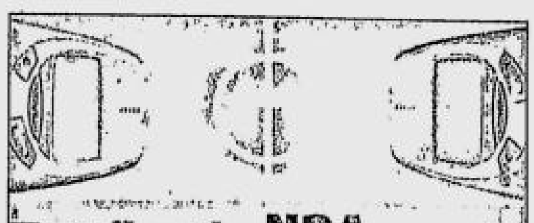
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Reyes rules LA meet

REYES: Weaving magic anew.
FILEPHOTO

EFREN "The Magician" Reyes wove his magic anew by whipping American Roger Griffis, 8-3, to rule the Accu-Stats 8-Ball Invitational Tournament at the Burbank Hilton Hotel recently in Los Angeles.

In the round robin format, Reyes beat reigning World Pool Champion Mike Immonen of Finland 8-6; former US Open and world champion Johnny Archer 8-7; American Tony Frank 8-5, and countryman Francisco "Django" Bustamante, 8-5, to reach the final.

The three-time world 8-ball champion returned to Manila from Los Angeles to play Jeanette "The Black Widow" Lee in the LG Flatron Billiard Challenge at Casino Filipino, Parañaque which he won 13-5.

Reyes, the 1999 World Pool Champion, proved he is still among the best when he beat five-time US Open champion Earl "The Pearl" Strickland, 13-9, in the final of the 1st US Masters 9-Ball Championship.

Lee, who captured the hearts of Filipino fans with her beauty and down-to-earth charm, said Reyes was without a doubt "the greatest pool player in the world" and playing against him was "a victory in itself."

Encouraged by the tremendous response to the LG Flatron Billiard Challenge, Viva Vintage Sports president Vic del Rosario and Aristeo "Putch" Puyat of Puyat Sports are working on a major international tournament in December featuring Immonen, European champion Ralf Souquet, Americans Cory Duel and Strickland and Filipino champions Reyes and Bustamante.

Reyes and Bustamante are scheduled to compete in the International 9-Ball Open in Tokyo in a tournament that features such stars as Immonen, Souquet, Strickland and young American sensation Corey Duel.

The two top Filipino cue artists will then fly to Poland where they are among a select few invited to participate in the World Pool League after which they will return to Japan for the All-Japan Championship.

GMA calls for dialogue

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo immediately ordered the investigation of the alleged irregularities in the Philippine Sports Commission shortly after meeting with officials of the disgruntled Athletes and Coaches Alliance of the Philippines yesterday in Malacañang.

Providing a rare audience to the protesting athletes and coaches, the President, who took notes of the meeting herself, also offered the use of the Presidential Security Group hospital as part of the welfare package for them.

However, Ms Macapagal-Arroyo asked the Acap members to talk to PSC chair Butch Tuason, whom she called twice during the meeting to answer all the accusations hurled against him.

The President, Tuason and the Acap members are set to meet once the PSC chair returns from Bacolod next week.

Marc Anthony Reyes

Pasay 4-cock derby tonight

PASAY City Cockpit's cockfighting season for 2001-2002 begins at 7 tonight as some 30 participants collide in a special 4-cock derby.

More than 60 fast-paced encounters are lined-up beginning at 7 p.m., according to PCC pit manager Oscar Gonzales who is hosting the event. The last derby held at Pasay Cockpit (Oct. 26) attracted a total of 38 entries.

Submission of entries will be held today, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and interested parties may contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746 for details.

Meanwhile, regular hackfights are also in full swing at Pasay Cockpit every Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday where an average of 65 fights are held daily.

Liza keeps 5th spot

PATTAYA, Thailand—Liza del Rosario of the Philippines easily made the 24-woman cut but teammate Benny Dytoc failed in his bid to enter the quarterfinals of the 37th AMF Bowling World Cup Wednesday at PS Pattaya Bowling here.

Del Rosario collected 4943 pins to average 205.98 and maintain fifth place at the end of the 24-game eliminations.

Dytoc, who made an auspicious World Cup debut by taking the led after the first eight games, saw his campaign end when he carded 8328 after 40 games to eventually rank 17th in a field of 81.

But the rookie Dytoc had nothing to be ashamed of because he averaged 208.20 pins.

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Race 4—1. Don't Tell Me 2. Tochnilo 3. Rule By Right

Race 5—1. Ariana's Pride 2. Johann Song 3. Maniaman

Race 6—1. Queen of Less 2. Speed Charm 3. Doctor Steve 4. Cash McCall

Race 7—1. Snowy Market 2. Double Check 3. Timeless Beauty 4. Standout

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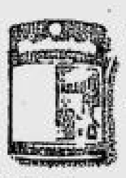
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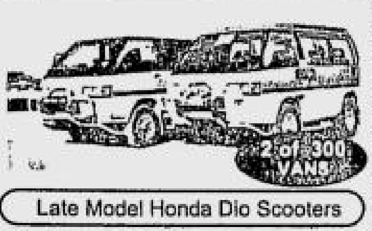
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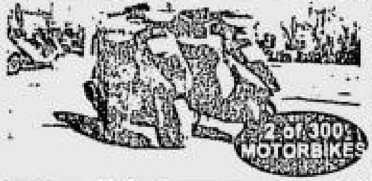
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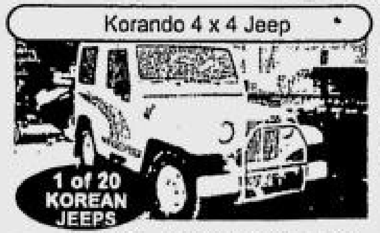
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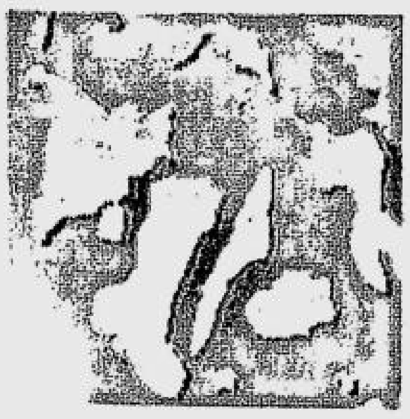

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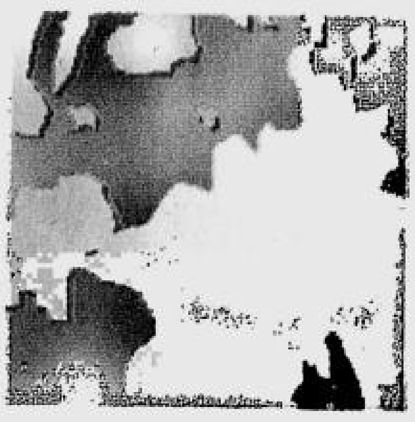

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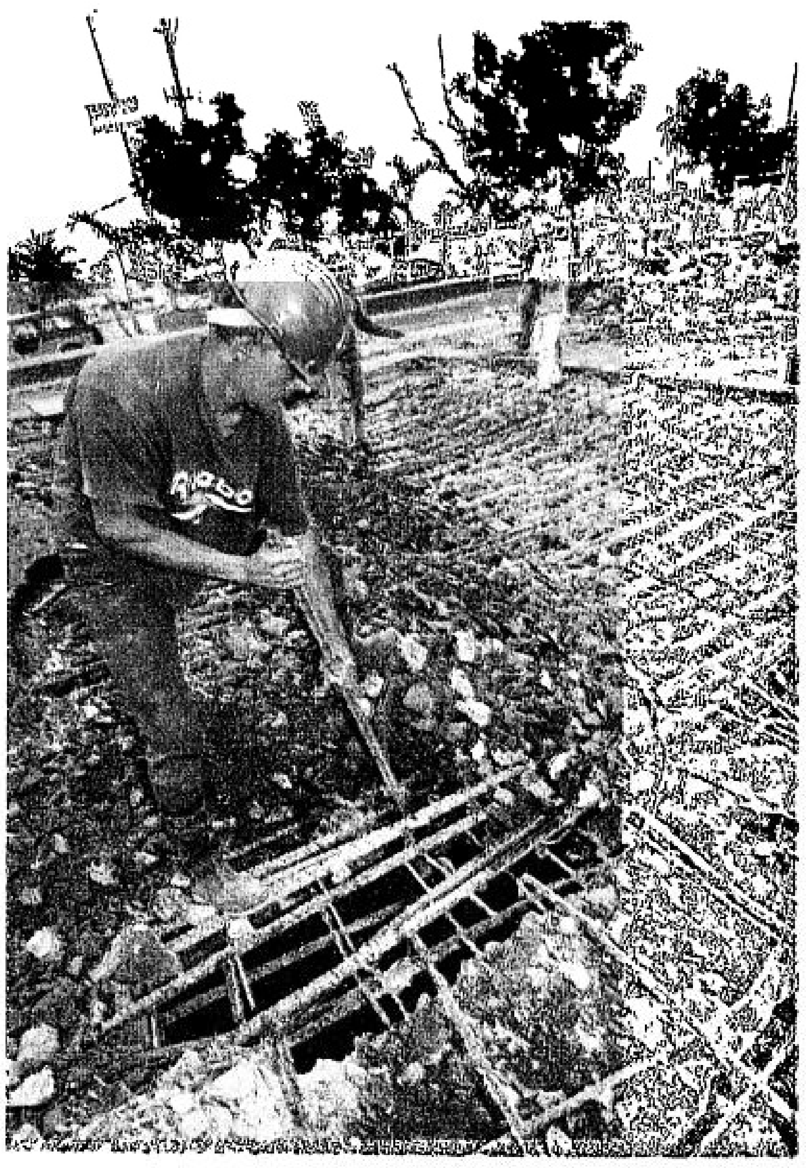
ERIK ABAZAS

SOUTH-BOUND portion of South Superhighway in San Andres, Manila is closed to all vehicles as repair work on this bridge goes on.

Huge traffic jams 'until next year'

BY ALCUIN PAPA

REPAIRS on a bridge near the intersection of South Superhighway and Quirino Avenue have been causing massive traffic jams since Monday, and the traffic snarls are expected to last until early next year.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said the repairs would last for 45 days, or from Oct. 29 to Dec. 11. But the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Metrobase said it expects traffic jams to continue until early next year.

The repairs on the bridge started after DPWH engineers have found its underpinnings worn-out from use.

Yesterday, the MMDA said it instituted a "massive deployment of traffic enforcers." But there was no letup in the traffic jams, apparently aggravated by the continuous rains.

The road works have caused the closure of a stretch of the southbound lane of the South Superhighway, a major artery to Southern Luzon.

The intersection of Quirino Avenue and Osmeña Highway is a vital conduit for vehicles between Manila and Bicutan, Taguig, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Southern Tagalog and Bicol via the South Luzon Expressway and the Skyway. Cargo trucks from the Port Area also use the route on the way to and from South Luzon.

Earlier, the DPWH issued an advisory to motorists plying the route, but this did not ease the traffic mess due to the sheer volume of vehicles passing on the expressway.

On Wednesday, traffic at the South Luzon Expressway was bumper-to-bumper from the Nichols tollgate all the way to Quirino Avenue. Traffic was also heavy in Sta. Mesa from Quirino Avenue to Nagtahan Bridge.

Other affected streets are San Andres, San Marcelino, Pedro Gil, Onyx, Diamante, Figueroa, Peñafrancia, Vito Cruz, Zobel Roxas and Buendia.

The MMDA has issued a rerouting scheme, which will be in effect until Dec. 18.

From Nagtahan and all areas north of Quirino

HUGE TRAFFIC/A26

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New witness in ROTC slay surfaces

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

A NEW witness in the killing of University of Santo Tomas engineering student and ROTC cadet Mark Chua yesterday surfaced at the Department of Justice.

The witness, a 20-year-old Fine Arts student also at UST, declared in an affidavit that some officials and officers of the UST Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) could be behind Chua's death.

The new witness, who was a UST ROTC officer from December 2000 to March 2001, claimed he saw Chua on the night of May 15 at the UST Department of Military Science and Tactics (DMST) office.

Chua's death is being blamed on DMST officials. He was killed following his exposé of alleged irregularities in the university's ROTC program.

The witness executed the affidavit before state prosecutor Aristotle M. Reyes.

Chua's father Welson claimed that it was the new witness who last saw his son alive on the night of March 15.

According to Welson, the Fine Arts student saw in the DMST office a man who was lying on his stomach. The man's hands and feet were tied and his head was wrapped with packing tape.

When the young Chua's decomposing body was fished out of the Pasig River on March 18, he

NEW WITNESS/ A26

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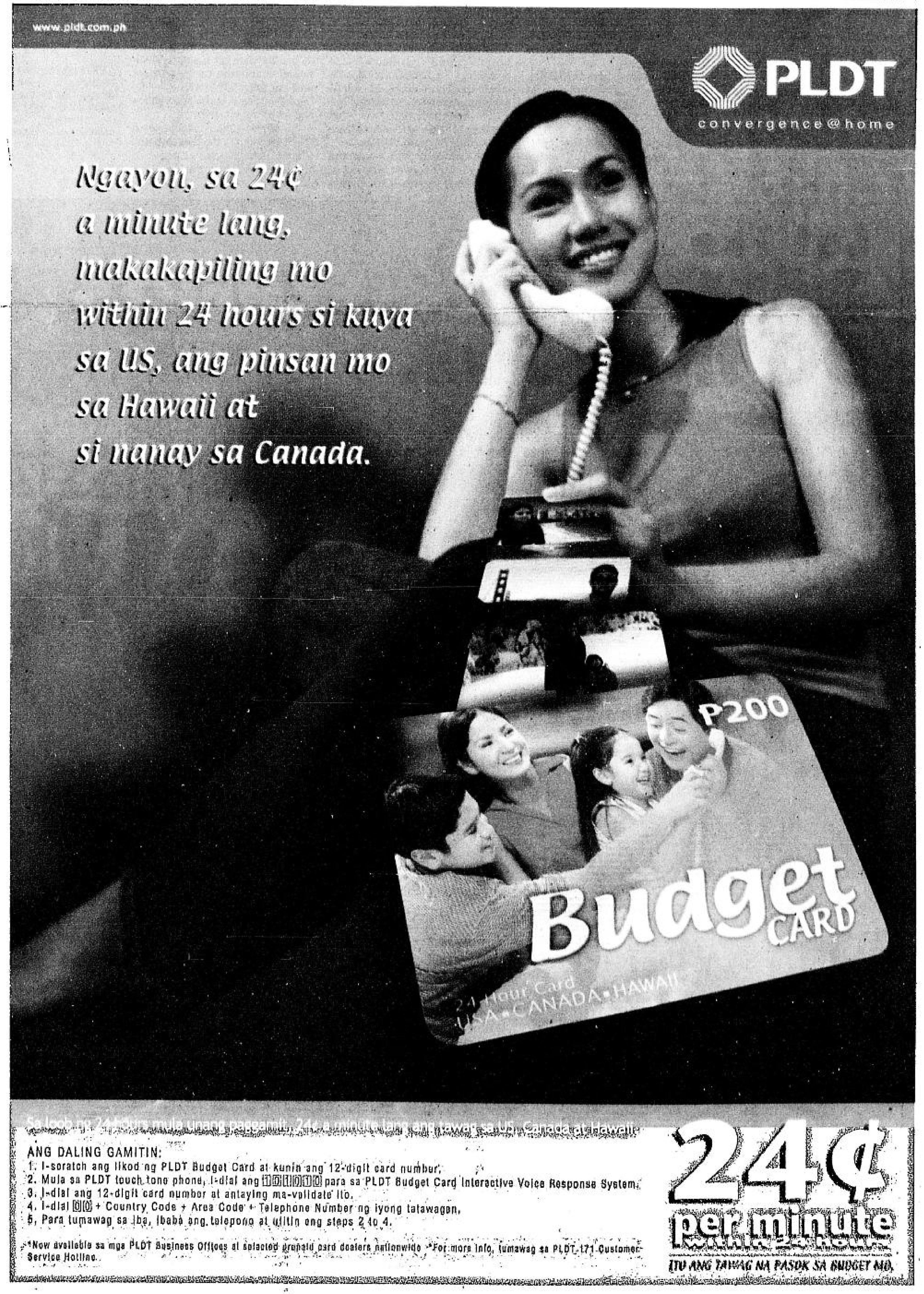
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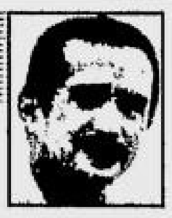
A coach for all seasons

BARE EYE



Recah Trinidad

I HAVEN'T had the happy chance of talking to classy coach Tito Eduque for quite some time.

The last time I rang him at his place, it was to request for a discount at Kamayan for a young reporter who was to get married that coming Sunday.

I had to apologize for getting in touch only in a time of need.

"Come on," he said "that's nothing."

He also sounded a bit puzzled. It was my fault, because I spoke like I was a total stranger when in fact we had been old friends.

My request granted, he advised me to do it more often.

Call up anytime, he said. Let's have a little drink one of these days.

That sweet, sincere gesture spoke grandly of the man.

He never hesitated to share the good things, mainly his quiet passion for life, with others.

***

Unfortunately, we never had the happy chance of sharing that little drink again.

Whenever I would bump into broadcast journalist Butch Marco, his son-in-law, all I could do was ask about Coach Tito's health.

I was told he had some sort of heart problem but that did not deter the Man in White from living life in his inimitable style.

He loved to help people, and be with friends with whom he often shared that perpetual whisky.

We were told he had always made it a point to play a round of golf, health and weather permitting.

Then, yesterday morning, Chino, the Philippine Basketball League commissioner who lives in the old apartment door next to mine, broke the sad news.

"Tito Eduque is gone, he's 74, cancer," Chino announced sullenly.

***

I have every reason to feel low, very low.

You know what? Coach Tito once made me a member of the Philippine national basketball team.

This came after he discovered that I had strayed into the turf with no extra fund for my board and lodging.

The event was in 1974 World Basketball Championships in Puerto Rico where the Philippines represented Asia.

Lest it would be forgotten, Conch Eduque mentored the 1973 RP national team that won the Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) championship in Manila.

For the record, it was the last all-Filipino national squad, with members like Francis Arnaiz, Robert Jaworski, Alberto Reynoso, William Adornado, Yoyong Martirez, to have won the ABC men's crown.

Anyway, I had to fly alone from Manila to catch the national team that had gone ahead to the tournament site. After visiting a dear uncle in Los Angeles, I took an American Airlines flight, reaching San Juan, the Porto Rican capital, after a stopover in New Orleans.

I touched Porto Rican soil way after dark and I had to scramble and struggle to know the RP team quarters at the seaside Helio Isla Hotel, which I next reached by cab.

***

I carried no official accreditation.

Naturally, I got stalled.

Big Boy Reynoso and the late Tembong Melencio, however, quickly came to my rescue. They told organizers I was too tired after that long trip and would just settle the status problem in the morning.

I shared a room with Yoyong Martirez and Big Boy that night.

Then, the next morning, Yoyong told me to put on my jogging pants and running shoes. He also made me wear his official RP team jacket.

I was next made to join the RP team members in a rigid morning drill supervised by trainer Juan Cutillas.

I could clearly read the quiet amusement in Coach Eduque's smile as I proceeded to run, jump, roll, squat, sprint, with all the legit RP national squad members.

"Team alternate," Tembong, pointing down to me on the grass, told tournament officials who hotly tried to verify my status.

When the officials next turned to him for approval, I saw Coach Tito nod his assurance.

***

Let me confess that I barely survived that terrible morning workout with the RP national basketball team.

At least I have lived to tell other young scribes who might try to venture into an unfunded international coverage never to try it themselves.

How did I feel the morning after? Nothing serious, really. I just nearly landed in a hospital.

I just woke up with my whole body aching. I also suspected somebody had pushed a thick metal sheet under my midsection.

Yes, I'd rather go to jail. I would not be caught joining that killer team drill again.

But, in order to save the situation, Coach Tito next made me work as a referee.

No kidding. I ended up officiating the RP team's succeeding scrimmages.

***

It was fun. As team member, albeit unofficially, I got access to the privileges of my "teammates." Free quarters, free food, free transportation, the works.

I was also to learn some of Coach Eduque's secrets. For example, he made it a point to pour it on in the third quarter which, he believed, was often the most decisive point in an amateur basketball game.

Then, after the tournament was over, with RP finishing 11th by beating Central Africa, Coach Tito called me to his room.

We were to fly to San Francisco the next morning for a two-day rest before heading for home.

Digging into his team luggage, he fished out two brand-new official RP team towels, colored red and blue.

Yours, he said, and turned over to me what I have learned to treasure as my diploma for having been a working member of the Philippine national basketball team.

Now, please don't try to look up my name in any official RP team roster.

The deal was just between my coach and me.

I doubt if Tito Eduque, sportsman, lover of life, had bestowed such an honor to any one else in the world.

Firm sells trash technology to provinces

By Christian V. Esguerra

A FOREIGN firm has been wooing mayors in Metro Manila and nearby provinces to muster support for its technology, which garbage czar Benjamin Abalos claimed could solve Metro Manila's garbage problems.

Roger van den Berghe, a consultant representing Interstate Waste Management Inc., said the local governments of San Fernando, Olongapo, and Baguio have expressed "extreme interest" in "thermoselect," a technology that uses high temperature to convert all kinds of garbage, except nuclear, into useable materials.

The company is also negotiating with the city governments of Dagupan and Cebu to put up recycling factories in the areas, he told the Inquirer yesterday.

Abalos, chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority, has endorsed the technology to the environment department, after he was convinced that the technology is the key to the garbage problem.

Van den Berghe has invited mayors in Metro Manila to look into the project and evaluate the technology's potential. He added it would take his company 24 months to build a thermoselect factory.

"We don't have much time," Van den Berghe said. "We cannot afford not to solve the problem."

The company had asked the MMDA for the contact numbers of Metro Manila mayors. It had already submitted a proposal to the Manila city government, but Mayor Lito Atienza has yet to respond.

Van den Berghe introduced the technology late last month as an alternative solution to the garbage problem. Local officials are currently implementing a waste segregation and recycling scheme.

So far, only the Australia-based HMR Group and the Bataan-based Chester Industries have offered assistance to the government's waste disposal program.

'Palad' lends hand to drug campaign

By Jerome Aning

AFTER the controversial Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga of the Estrada administration comes Palad, the government's latest, multi-sectoral coalition to fight the drug menace.

Palad, or the Programang Pang-Edukasyon at Pangkabuhayan Laban sa Droga, will try a new approach in fighting drug abuse, Dangerous Drugs Board executive director Bernardo Lastimoso told reporters during yesterday's media forum at the Holiday Inn Manila.

Lastimoso, a lawyer, said that the drug problem would be best solved by addressing its root cause, poverty, and strengthening the family, the social unit where drug abuse commonly starts.

Palad will also spearhead a massive information and education drive in various sectors of society.

The new group will be composed of experts, members of the academe, community-based organizations such as the Citizens Drug Watch and Addictus Philippines, and local anti-drug abuse councils, according to Lastimoso.

Addictus Philippines president Leonardo Estacio noted an increasing number of families whose members are engaged in drug abuse and drug pushing.

According to the DDB, an estimated 3.5 million Filipinos used drugs last year. Of this figure, 1.8 million were regular users while the rest were occasional users.

Palad will be launched at the Manila Hotel on Nov. 14, coinciding with the DDB's 29th anniversary and the observance of the National Drug Control and Prevention Week.

New . . .

(From page A25)

was hogtied, his head was covered with packing tape, and his body was wrapped in a carpet.

However, the new witness did not confirm this in his affidavit. He only presented circumstantial evidence to show that some of the suspects were with Chua on May 15.

The Fine Arts student claimed he saw a .45 caliber pistol in his drawer when he went into the DMST office about 4:30 p.m. on May 15. He was surprised but he decided not to ask his fellow officers about the gun in his drawer.

Moments after, Eduardo Tabrilla and Arnulfo Aparri arrived, according to him.

Tabrilla had been tagged by an NBI witness as one of the five suspects in the killing. The others were Michael Von Rainard Managbao who is at large, Joseph Tan, Patrick Cristopher Cruz and Genesis Binagatan.

Binagatan and two John Does have been charged with murder before the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 27. The four other suspects are undergoing preliminary investigation at the DOJ.

The new witness said Aparri invited them to play Counter Strike, a computer game, at a computer shop on P. Noval Street near UST. He said Tabrilla was holding a shoelace. "He even tried to tie it around Aparri's neck while we were walking toward the computer center," he added.

When they went back to the DMST office, the officer's lounge leading to the corps commander's office was locked. He said he waited in the reception area to meet a certain Dennis Pamor. But Tabrilla was allowed to enter the officer's lounge, he said.

Huge traffic . . .

(From page A25)

Avenue, private vehicles should take Pedro Gil, turn right on Onyx, right on Diamante to exit on the South Superhighway.

The left-turn ban from Quiriño Avenue to Pedro Gill shall remain in effect and motorists are advised to take Figueroa or Peñafrancia and other roads to access Pedro Gil.

Motorists bound for South Superhighway can take Roxas Boulevard via Vito Cruz/Zobel Roxas, Buendia or Edsa.

Vehicles coming from Diamante Street can turn right on South Superhighway, then turn left on Quirino Avenue. Buses from Singalong will have to go straight along San Andres instead of turning left on Quirino, then turn left on San Andres to exit on South Superhighway.

Trucks and trailer vans from the Port Area can take two routes: San Marcelino Street, left on San Andres and right on South Superhighway, or through Roxas Boulevard.

Vehicles with license plates ending in odd numbers have to turn left on Buendia, and those with license plates ending with even numbers must turn left on Edsa.

But the MMDA said this route would not be used between 6 and 9 a.m. and between 4 and 9 p.m.

Trucks and trailer vans from Nagtahan on Quirino Avenue will turn left on San Marcelino Street, then left on San Andres Street to exit to South Superhighway.

The MMDA has advised motorists to follow traffic signs to minimize traffic congestion during the repairs.

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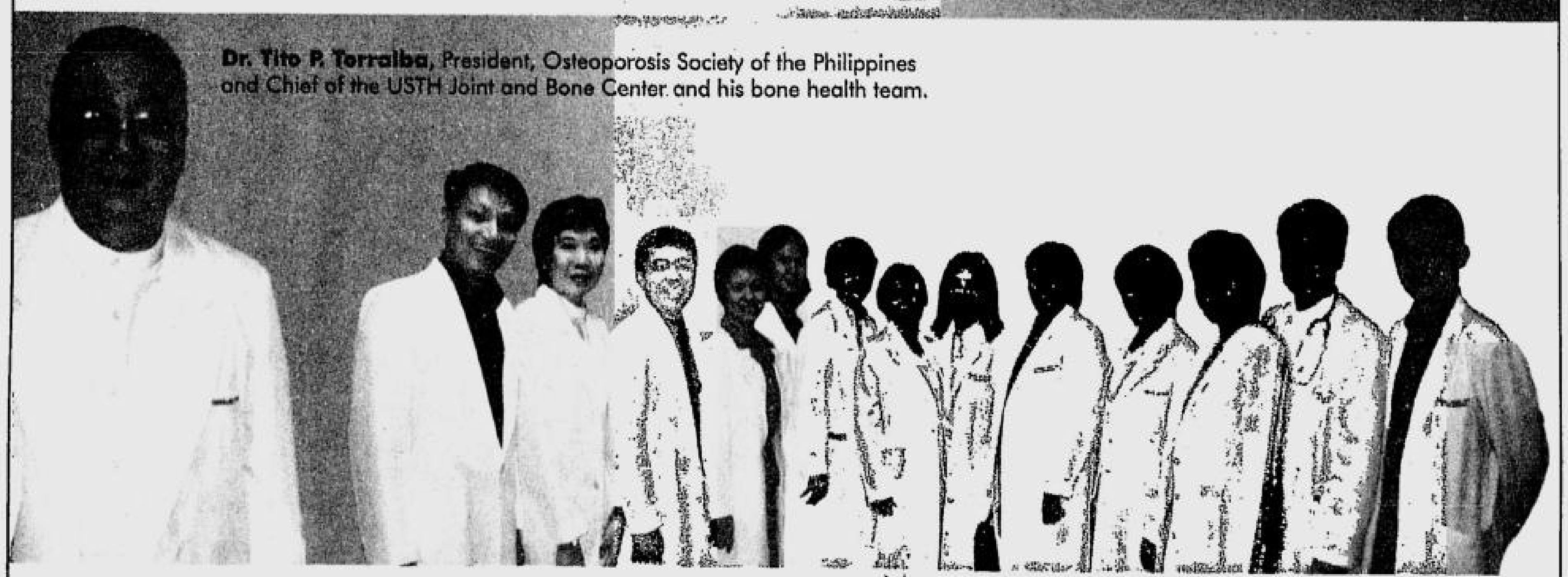
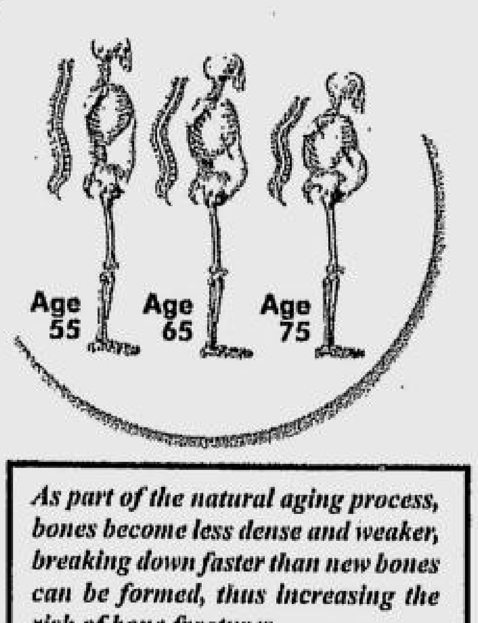


Dr. Tito P. Torralba, President, Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines and Chief of the USTH Joint and Bone Center and his bone health team.



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TV series on evolution of Filipino values

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOR 50 years now, **Eddie Romero** has contributed substantially to the country's cultural life by way of his films and special TV productions. And he's not about to stop doing so anytime soon.

In fact, he has just finished production work on a major TV series, "Diwa," composed of 13 one-hour episodes that could be telecast by February next year, weekly for three months.

The series is a production of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. Romero has been working on the research and writing for years, because of the project's challenging scope and significance.

"Diwa" is on nothing less than the evolution of Filipino values, with the country's history from 1445 to 1967 as background. Covered in the 13 episodes are pre-Spanish times, the colonial periods of Spain and then America, the second World War, Liberation, then all the way up to the turbulent Marcos years just before the Third Quarter Storm.

Clearly, the series has a lot to tell us about ourselves and how we got to be the way we are. So we hope that our schools will encourage their students to watch "Diwa" when it finally hits our TV screens.

Romero says that the show's focus on Filipino values is "not for what they were, but for how they were lived." To keep the series on an even keel, thematically speaking, he wrote the sequence treatments for all 13 episodes, and the full scripts for the first three and the last four episodes.

On the other hand, he didn't intend "Diwa" to reflect only his point of view. That's why he designed the series "to have many people participate in it who were in positions of control, so that all those perspectives could result in as objective as possible an account of how our values have evolved."

The series' objective: "To help viewers know themselves better, because self-knowledge is important."

Some of the values highlighted in the series are *pakikisama*, *hiya* and *utang na loob*, and they are traced from the start of "Diwa," to its final episode. The point to all this: "Those values have not changed essentially, but their context has."

Viewers familiar with Romero's work look forward to watching the series in its entirety because the film-TV producer, writer and director is famous for coming up with valuable insights into our make-up as a people, and as individuals.

For instance, "Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon" used the picaresque style of storytelling to trace the evolution of the Philippines from disparate islands and little kingdoms into a people with a sense of nationhood.

And "Aguila" was a look at how the good and bad traits of the members of a Filipino clan held away or change from generation to generation.

It's expected that "Diwa" will be an important addition to this canon because it deals with the values that have been ingrained in us for centuries, and how they continue to define us.

In terms of direction, Episodes 1, 2 and 13 were directed by Romero, 3 by **Celso Ad. Castillo**, 4 by **Fyke Cinco**, 5 by **Joey Romero**, 6 and 7 by **Mel Chionglo**, 8 by **Tikoy Aguiluz**, 9 by **Gil Portes**, and 10, 11 and 12 by **Joel Lamangan**.

When it rains, it pours for Janno Gibbs

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

THE PUBLICITY shots of Viva Films' upcoming comedy, "Weyt a Minit, Kapeng Mainit," starring **Janno Gibbs** and **Blakdyak**, reminds me of the box-office tandem of Hong Kong martial arts superstar **Jackie Chan** and comedian **Chris Tucker**.

Their height, skin color and the fact that Janno and Blakdyak make for a hilarious screen tandem, also make me associate them with the stars of the two "Rush Hour" blockbusters.

For the first time, Janno and Blakdyak are together not to sing, but to provide the laughs in a comedy flick directed by **Ben Feleo**. Playing their respective love interests are **Geneva Cruz** and **Angela Velez**.

In the past, Janno has been paired with a number of comedians, including **Bayani Agbayani** ("Juan en Ted") and **Andrew E.** ("Tusong Twosome"). But Janno is excited about his partnership with Blakdyak, who was last seen with veteran actor-director **Eddie Garcia** in "Asin at Paminta."

"This is my first time to work with Blakdyak and I believe the audience will find our team-up very interesting," Janno says. "It's something different because we complement each other in our punch lines."

SCREEN REUNION. Sharon Cuneta and Robin Padilla are paired for the third time in "Pagdating ng Panahon."

Janno has his hands full with commitments lately. He is perhaps in one of the busiest periods in his show biz career. Aside from his movie, he has two regular TV shows on GMA—the sitcom "Beh Bote Nga" and the Sunday noontime program "SOP."

He is also promoting his latest album, "Divas and I," for Viva Records. To further boost the album, Janno will hold a solo concert, "Viva's and I," which will guest some of the female artists who recorded with him in the album. The concert will be on Nov. 10 at the Araneta Coliseum. Also joining Janno onstage are **Ogie Alcasid**, Andrew E. and Blakdyak.

Janno is one multi-talented performer who has proven himself as a singer, comedian, recording artist and TV host. Such innate talent is not surprising because show biz runs in Janno's blood. His father is versatile actor **Ronaldo Valdez** and his mother is **Baby Ilagan** of the famous Ilagan clan whose other members include **Liberty Ilagan, Jay Ilagan, Robert Arevalo** and **Tito Arevalo**. Janno is married to actress **Bing Loyzaga**.

But rather than hitch his career on his famous relatives, Janno was able to make a name for himself in no time.

In his solo concert at the Big Dome, Janno is out to prove anew that he is a first-rate talent in the local entertainment scene.

Guesting in the show are **Pilita Corrales, Pops Fernandez, Jaya** and **Lani Misalucha**.

Pilita and Janno recorded a hip-hop version of "Kapantay ay Langit" in the album "Divas and I." With Pops, Janno sang the bouncy "I Say a Little Prayer," which they will also sing during the concert.

Jaya, who is Janno's cohost in "SOP," will render two Tagalog ballads with him—"Ikaw Lamang" and "Kung Kailangan Mo Ako."

Lani and Janno will croon **Chaka Khan**'s hit, "Through the Fire."

A major concert for Janno is quite rare. Last year, he did a show at the Music Museum. His fans will get another chance to see him again perform live in his forthcoming Araneta concert, which is part of the 20th anniversary celebration of Viva Entertainment.

From hit song to movie

THERE are countless movies which have been successful because of a popular theme song. Now, Viva Films capitalizes on that by turning **Aiza Seguerra**'s chart-topping hit ballad, "Pagdating ng Panahon," into a romantic-comedy movie.

The latest Viva offering, "Pagdating ng Panahon," marks the screen reunion of the box-office tandem of **Sharon Cuneta** and **Robin Padilla**. It also serves as Sharon's return to filmmaking after being away for more than a year.

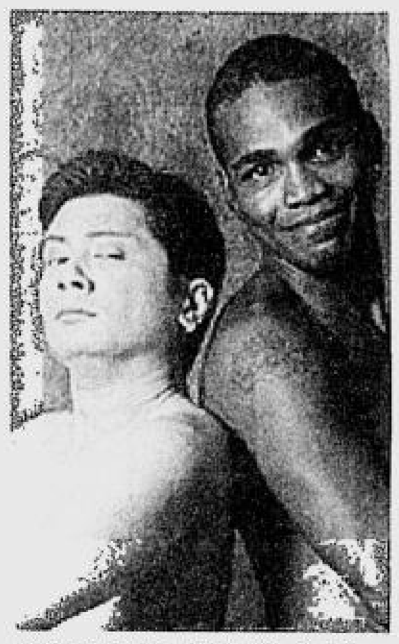
It will be remembered that Sharon was last seen opposite **Richard Gomez** in **Olive Lamansan**'s "Minsan Minahal Kita," shown in February last year as a Valentine offering of Star Cinema.

Now, Sharon returns with one of her favorite leading men in a film megged by another female director, **Joyce Bernal** from a script by **Mel del Rosario.**

It took a while for Sharon and Robin to reunite on the big screen, as personal and professional twists and turns in their lives came in the way. But Viva was optimistic that the cinematic paths of the two superstars would meet.

True enough, Sharon and Robin found a way to work anew and with a project like "Pagdating ng Panahon." It marks their third teamup together following "Maging Sino Ka Man" in 1991 and "Di na Natuto" in 1993. Both movies are produced by Viva Filsm.

In "Pagdating ng Panahon," Sharon bakes *buko* pie and Robin gathers *tuba*. The locale is set in the coconut province of Laguna. They come from feuding families and their romantic and comic encounters are what make the movie amusing and entertaining.



JANNO Gibbs (left) with first-time costar, comedian-singer Blakdyak, in "Weyt a Minit, Kapeng Mainit."

Of course, Sharon gets to sing her version of "Pagdating ng Panahon," which will be used to promote the movie. Sadly, the song is not included in her latest album, "All I Ever Want," under BMG Records Pilipinas.

"Pagdating ng Panahon" has a late November playdate and is the 20th anniversary offering of Viva Films. Others in the cast are **Rufa Mae Quinto, Amy Austria, Bernard Palanca** and newcomer **Christian Vasquez.**

Regine sings movie themes in 12-night concert series

SHOWS

RELIVE your favorite movie themes as Asia's Songbird Regine Velasquez invades Music Museum at 9 tonight, for a grand start of her much awaited 12-night concert series, "Regine at the Movies."

Pamper your ears to her delightful renditions of popular theme songs from memorable movies like "Con Air," "Titanic," "Moulin Rouge," among many others. Musical director is Raul Mitra.

"Regine at the Movies" also goes onstage Nov. 10, 16 and 17 at the Music Museum (Level-C, Shoppesville Arcade, Greenhills) and Nov. 23, 24, 30, Dec. 1, 7, 8, 15 and 16 at Onstage (2/F Greenbelt Mall, Makati).

Tickets at P1,200, P900 and P600 are available at all Ticketworld outlets (891-5610), major National Bookstore branches, Robinson's Place and Robinson's Galleria, Tower Records Makati and Alabang, Music Museum (721-00635/721-6726), Onstage Ticketron and Maxi-Media office (813-8999/893-7737).

"Regine at the Movies" is a production of Maxi-Media International.

The concert series is presented by Sunsilk Crystal Nutrient Shampoo, with Farlin Baby Products, Buffalo, Beam Toothpaste, Stresstabs and Chowking.

It is also supported by Wendy's, WBN Jeans, No-Drowse Decolgen, Biogesic, Solmux, Ricola, Alberto Shoes, National Sports Grill and radio stations Citylite 88.3, Mellow Touch 94.7, 96.3 WROCK, 99.5 RT, 103.5 K-Lite and 105.1 Crossover.

Benefit-concert

THE LONG-RUNNING hit musical "Miss Saigon" has garnered worldwide acclaim for its impressive production as well as its endearing catalog of plaintive and haunting melodies.

Aside from its theatric legacy, it also reaffirmed the world-class caliber of sterling Filipino talents including Lea Salonga, Leo Valdez, Robert Sena, Junix Inocian, Jenine Desiderio, Jinky Llamanzares, Isay Alvarez and Jamie Rivera.

KING of the night. DJ John Robinson at The Tent.

Aficionados of the enduring musical who failed to catch its recent Manila run will have a chance to relive its pomp and musical grandeur through a special concert, "Divas of Saigon," featuring some of its original performers: Isay Alvarez, Jamie Rivera, Jinky Llamanzares and Jenine Desidero.

The benefit dinner-show will be held Nov. 28 at the Manila Hotel Ballroom, with Robert Seña as special guest and the special participation of the Philippine Pop Orchestra and the Tiples De Sto. Domingo Boys Choir.

"Divas of Saigon" is the maiden concert production venture of the Fe Del Mundo Medical Center (FDMMC, formerly Children's Medical Center) to raise funds for the building of a charity ward that will cater to the needs of less-privileged children and adults.

The concert is presented by ALV Productions. For tickets and reservations, call ALV Productions (637-7014 to 18) or the Fe Del Mundo Medical Center (410-1739/743-1818). Showtime is at 9 p.m.

MTV campus tours

MTV PHILIPPINES doesn't stop rockin' and kickin' as it presents two events this weekend to liven up your spirits.

The MTV and Pepsi "Live n' Loud" campus tour at the UST Grandstand at 7 tonight, Nov. 9, will feature bands such as Barbie's Cradle, Rivermaya and Freestyle.

The Pepsi Groove Crew and MTV VJ Hunt finalists will also make an appearance. The gig is presented in cooperation with Smart, Skechers, Frito-Lay's Wrigley's Juicy Fruit, Knorr Cup-A-Soup, Cup-A-Snack, Islander and Monde Denmark, with KFC, Tropical Hut, Pizza Hut, U by Rustan's, MTV Ink and Jag Jeans.

Tomorrow, Nov. 10 at 9:30 p.m., MTV and Sauza Zaz will once again revive Manila's nightlife with the third leg of their Unified Domination Bar Tour at Pier One at the Fort Square, Fort Bonifacio.

Featured performers are 7 Shots of Wisdom, D-Coy of Madd Poets, Trilogy, Legit Misfits, Jaya, Kyle, Geneva Cruz, Radha and deejays Steven Mills, Marvin and Ace.

There will also be an Urban fashion show and Fubu street team performance, plus the sizzling Zaz Pack girls.

The gig is presented by MTV Philippines and Sauza Zaz, with MyGlobe, Frito-Lay's and Quaker Oats.

'Planet Love'

THE NBC Tent was the party place on All-Hallows Eve, with the 4,000-plus party-goers who stormed the 1,500 sq.-m. venue for a taste of "Planet Love," the biggest party brand in Japan and one of the hottest in Asia.

From the moment DJ Bobet Villaluz opened the night to the thumping music of Japanese DJ Koutarou after midnight and the music wizardry of king of the night, DJ John Robinson, "Planet Love @ The Tent" gave Manila a taste of the best in international dance music.

The event proved to be an all-out audio-visual experience with awe-inspiring laser lights washing the venue and unrivaled cutting-edge graphics by Japan's top visual jockey VJ Turu.

Party-goers enjoyed face-paintings courtesy of Mac Cosmetics, Preview, Cosmopolitan and FHM Magazines.

"Planet Love @ The Tent" was staged by Joey@92.3 FM and NBC, with Smart Communications, Axe Deostick and Mac, with Astring-o-sol, Mossimo, Music One, Tower Records and getasia.com.

Best in costume winner Allana Montelibano as Queen Amidala, went home with a free trip to Tokyo, plus VIP tickets to "Planet Love" events in Japan.

Bar tour

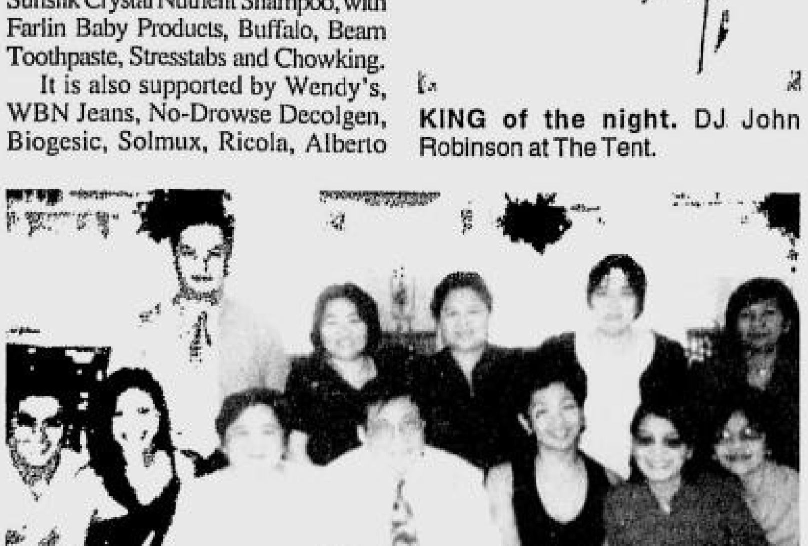
THE PARTY scene is alive again as Manila's night owls and the gorgeous models of Mild Seven tour the Libis and Tomas Morato areas.

Tonight, the ultramodern bars in the Libis strip comes in contact with the Mild Seven force in Bargo, Blue Onion, Padi's Point, Famous Mikes, Giligans, WhistleStop, Pier One, Macau and Chicago Road House.

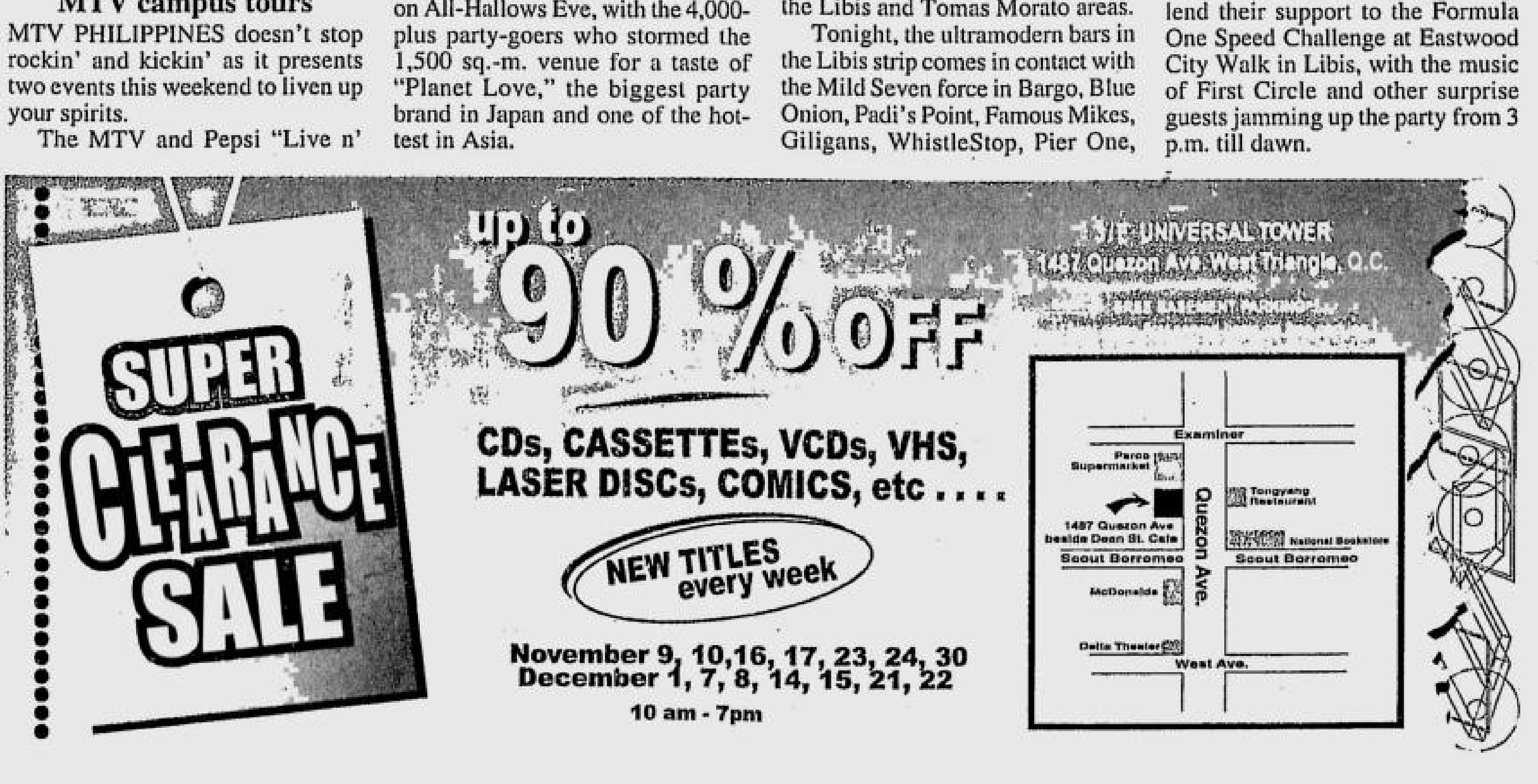
VELASQUEZ. Does delightful rendition of memorable movie themes.

They will also make a trip to Tomas Morato as they play "Mild Seven Dares" with the guests at Big Shots, Lite n Live, Southern Bulls, Quattro, Congo Grille, Cafea, East Saint Louie, Humidor, Ten Years After, WhistleStop, Virgin Café and Padi's Point.

Tomorrow night, Nov. 10, check out the Mild Seven team as they lend their support to the Formula One Speed Challenge at Eastwood City Walk in Libis, with the music of First Circle and other surprise guests jamming up the party from 3 p.m. till dawn.



"DIVAS of Saigon" benefit show: (seated from left) Robert Seña, Jenine Desiderio, FDMMC medical director Dra. Helen D. Divino, FDMMC president Dr. Alendry P. Caviles, Isay Alvarez, Jamie Rivera and Jinky Llamanzares; (standing from left) FDMMC administrator Dr. Hector Osi, Dr. Merle Sacdalan, pharmacist Lynn Datu, pediatrician Gina Carreon and alumni association president Dra. Luisa Maducdok.



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NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173668

1	DOS EKIS
2	KAMO
3	JEEPERS CREEPERS
4	GHOST OF MARS
5	THE ONE
6	TRIP
7	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
8	DON'T SAY A WORD

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522-7160416

1	TRIP
2	DON'T SAY A WORD
3	JEEPERS CREEPERS
4	DOWN TO EARTH
5	THE ONE
6	KAMO
7	GHOST OF MARS
8	LEGALLY BLONDE
9	DOS EKIS
10	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR
2	DOWN TO EARTH
3	LEGALLY BLONDE
4	JEEPERS CREEPERS
5	DOS EKIS
6	TRIP
7	THE ONE
8	DON'T SAY A WORD
9	TRIP
10	GHOST OF MARS
11	KAMO
12	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	JEEPERS CREEPERS
2	DON'T SAY A WORD
3	LEGALLY BLONDE
4	THE ONE
5	GHOST OF MARS
6	THE ONE
7	DOWN TO EARTH
8	KAMO
9	TRIP
10	TRIP
11	AMERICAN PIE 2
12	DOS EKIS

SM MEGAMALL
6331601 • 6339401

1	DOWN TO EARTH
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	THE ONE
4	JEEPERS CREEPERS
5	DON'T SAY A WORD
6	GHOST OF MARS
7	KAMO
8	AMERICAN PIE 2
9	TRIP
10	THE ONE
11	DOS EKIS
12	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

SM TUTUBAN
2514302

1	THE ONE
2	DOS EKIS
3	TRIP
4	JEEPERS CREEPERS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	GHOST OF MARS
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	TRIP
4	DOS EKIS
5	DON'T SAY A WORD
6	JEEPERS CREEPERS
7	THE ONE
8	THE ONE
9	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
10	AMERICAN PIE 2
11	KAMO
12	TRIP

SM SOUTHMALL
8006888

1	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR
2	GHOST OF MARS
3	JEEPERS CREEPERS
4	DON'T SAY A WORD
5	DOS EKIS
6	DOWN TO EARTH
7	TRIP
8	THE ONE
9	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
10	KAMO

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820505

1	TRIP
2	THE ONE
3	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

SM CEBU
2313016

1	THE ONE
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	DOWN TO EARTH
4	HIYAS SA PARAISO
5	TRIP
6	DOS EKIS
7	AMERICAN PIE 2

SM ILOILO
3209422

1	DOWN TOEARTH
2	CLOSED
3	THE ONE
4	DOS EKIS
5	LEGALLY BLONDE
6	AMERICAN PIE 2
7	CLOSED
8	TRIP

SM PAMPANGA
7128015

1	THE ONE
2	TRAINING DAY
3	AMERICAN PIE 2
4	DOS EKIS
5	DOWN TO EARTH
6	TRIP

SM SUCAT
8294935

1	JEEPERS CREEPERS
2	DOS EKIS
3	THE ONE
4	TRIP

SM DAVAO

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

SOON TO OPEN
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1	TRIP
2	THE ONE
3	KAMO
4	JEEPERS CREEPERS

GLORIETTA 4

1	JEEPERS CREEPERS	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE ONE	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE ONE THX	in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE (Art Film)	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	DOWN TO EARTH	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	DON'T SAY A WORD	in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	LEGALLY BLONDE	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	JEEPERS CREEPERS	in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	TRIP	in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE ONE	in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	SNAPSHOTS & PORTRAITS NOV. 10, 16, 17 - 8 PM NOV. 11, 18 - 3 PM Onstage	

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	THE ONE THX	in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE ONE	in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	JEEPERS CREEPERS	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	TRIP	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	DON'T SAY A WORD	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	GHOST OF MARS
2 (SDDS)	THE ONE
3 (DTS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
4 GOLD (DTS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	DOWN TO EARTH
6 GOLD (SDDS)	THE ONE
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	JEEPERS CREEPERS
8	DOS EKIS
9	TRIP
10	TRIP

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	TRIP
2	ROSARIO 18
3 (DTS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	TRIP
2	THE ONE
3	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	TRIP
2	JEEPERS CREEPERS
3	KAMO
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE ONE
5	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

METROPOLIS star
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
2	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR
3	TRIP
4	DOS EKIS
5	JEEPERS CREEPERS
6	THE ONE
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	THE ONE

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	DOS EKIS
2	FAST & FURIOUS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	TRIP
2	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
3	THE ONE

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	TRIP
A	KAMO

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	THE ONE
2	TRIP
3	KAMO
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	TRIP
5	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
6	TRIP
7 (DTS)	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR
8 (SDDS)	GHOST OF MARS
9 (DOLBY)	JEEPERS CREEPERS

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	THE ONE

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	DOS EKIS
2	TRIP
3	TRIP
4 (SDDS)	THE ONE
5	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
6 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
7 (DTS)	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR
8	GHOST OF MARS
9	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	THE ONE
2	TRIP
3	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR
4	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
5 (SDDS)	GHOST OF MARS
6	TRIP
7 (DOLBY)	JEEPERS CREEPERS
8	DOS EKIS

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	TRIP
2	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
5 (SDDS)	THE ONE

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	THE ONE

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	TRIP

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	KAMO
Lords	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
Jennet	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	TRIP
2	THE ONE
3	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	TRIP

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
2	TRIP
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	TRIP
2	THE ONE
3	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	RESERVE

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2	THE ONE
3	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	THE ONE
2	TRIP

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	TRIP
2	KAMO
3	
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	ROSARIO 18
2	TRIP
3 (DTS)	THE ONE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	THE BODY
2 (DTS)	TRIP
3 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
4	TRAINING DAY

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	TRIP
2 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
3 (DTS)	TRAINING DAY
4	TRIP

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	LEGALLY BLONDE
2	TRIP
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	THE ONE
2	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
3	KAMO
4 (DTS)	TRIP

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
2	TRIP
3 (DTS)	TRAINING DAY
4	ROSARIO 18
5	SAKIM

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	TRIP
2	THE ONE
3	SAKIM

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	TRIP
2	THE ONE
3	SAKIM

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	GHOST OF MARS
3	HIYAS

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	TRIP
2	THE ONE
3	TRAINING DAY

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	TRIP
2 (DTS)	THE ONE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	CLOSED

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	TRIP
2	ROSARIO 18
3	SAKIM

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	DOS EKIS
2	TRIP
3	DON'T SAY A WORD
4	HOLF

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	TRAINING DAY
2	ROSARIO 18
3	SOON TO OPEN
4 (DTS ES)	THE ONE

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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GALLERIA
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1 THX	THE ONE
2	THE ONE
3	TRIP
4	DON'T SAY A WORD
5	JEEPERS CREEPERS
6	AMERICAN PIE 2
7	TRAINING DAY
8	LEGALLY BLONDE
9	DOWN TO EARTH
10	GHOST OF MARS

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	THE ONE
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	DOWN TO EARTH
4	GHOST OF MARS
5	TRIP
6	JEEPERS CREEPERS
7	DON'T SAY A WORD

NOVALICHES
935-3229 TO 31

1	THE ONE
2	TRIP
3	TRIP
4	THE ONE
5	JEEPERS CREEPERS
6	JEEPERS CREEPERS
7	DON'T SAY A WORD
8	THE ONE

IMUS
(046) 471-8188

1	THE ONE
2	TRIP
3	JEEPERS CREEPERS
4	DON'T SAY A WORD
5	GHOST OF MARS
6	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453

1	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	TRAINING DAY
3	DOS EKIS
4	GHOST OF MARS
5	THE BODY
6	JAY & SILENT BOB STRIKES

SOON TO OPEN

METRO EAST
SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
ILOILO

THX dts SDDS DOLBY DIGITAL DOLBY STEREO

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	DOS EKIS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	TRIP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	THE ONE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	GHOST OF MARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	JEEPERS CREEPERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	KAMO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	DON'T SAY A WORD
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SCORPIO NIGHTS 2 / NIGHT JOB
ODEON	THE ONE
ODEON-2	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG
ROBEN	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	BROTHERHOOD / STOP

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
REMAR	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
REMAR-2	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	TRIP
B	THE ONE
C	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL
CINEMA-2	THE ONE

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
CINEMA-2	TRIP
CINEMA-3	DOS EKIS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	KAMO
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	GHOST OF MARS
CINEMA-6	HIYAS
CINEMA-7	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
CINEMA-8	TRIP
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	THE ONE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE ONE
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-12	JEEPERS CREEPERS
CINEMA-14	DON'T SAY A WORD
CINEMA-15	TRIP

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	JOY RIDE
CINEMA-2	DOWN TO EARTH
CINEMA-3	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-4	TRAINING DAY
CINEMA-5	GHOST OF MARS
CINEMA-6	DON'T SAY A WORD

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

AGASSI

Carlos to perform in raffle draw

KING Rapper Carlos Agassi—one of today's most exciting talents—will host the grand raffle draw of Mandom Philippines, Nov. 11 at SM City North Edsa.

The Hunks member and "Asap" mainstay will open the show with a rap number.

A fashion show featuring Manila's top ramp models with the various Mandom products will be held before the grand raffle draw.

The "Good Lookin', Great Drivin'" rage promo celebrates Mandom's 10 years in the Philippines. Grand prizes at stake are a brand new Toyota Rav 4, a Notebook PC and a Pioneer NS3VCD Player.

Regional draws were also held prior to the grand draw. Sony discmans and Da Vinci digital organizers were won by lucky winners.

Participating products for the "Good Lookin', Great Drivin'" raffle promo are Gatsby Gel, Hair Cream, Perfumed Talc, Mandom Facial CoolScrub, Pucelle Fresh Cologne, Perfumed Body Lotion and Perfumed Talc.

Carlos Agassi is also part of the ABS-CBN soap opera, "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan" and a well-known product endorser of several brands.

DE BELEN

Janice celebrates birthday on 'Sis'

JANICE de Belen celebrates her birthday on the daily morning show, "Sis," which she hosts with her younger sister Gelli.

Janice leaves her cozy home to throw a party for her viewers at Trivia, a new bar along Tomas Morato. Top band South Border provides the music for the guests.

Also in the party are Lani Misalucha, Jaya and Dolly Ann Carvajal.

For the first time, broadcast journalist Che-Che Lazaro interviews the birthday celebrator in one not-to-be-missed heart-to-heart.

Janice's birthday bash airs on "Sis" at 10:30 a.m. today on GMA.

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Tens of thousands of 'Potter' tickets sold before opening

LOS ANGELES — With almost two weeks still to go before its scheduled opening, the film "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" already has sold tens of thousands of tickets, sellers said Monday.

"We are seeing such an enormous amount of interest that we feel it is on track to be the biggest tickets seller in advance," said Jay Jay Nesheim, spokesman for AOL Moviefone, which began selling tickets to the film last week.

Nesheim would not specify how many tickets have been sold, except to say sales numbered in the tens of thousands.

"I think that as far as advanced ticketing goes I don't think anybody has ever seen anything like this," said John Singh, spokesman for Fandango, an online ticket seller. "At this rate we could expect it to be the biggest opening of all times."

The long-awaited movie, which opens Nov. 16, is based on the first in the series of popular children's novels by British author J.K. Rowling about a boy wizard.

The magic of Harry Potter hit the big screen on Sunday with London hosting the world premiere of the first movie about the young wizard whose exploits are already a monster literary hit.

The gala screening of "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" drew a crowd of some 5,000 fans — some in full witches' regalia — outside the West End cinema, and a star-studded audience inside.

"It went wonderfully," said Rowling, whose Harry Potter creation has sold more than 100 million books in 200 countries and 40 languages. "I am so pleased, everyone seems to love it."

One of the premier-goers, Sarah, the Duchess of York, accompanied by her two daughters, princesses Beatrice and Eugenie, was equally enthusiastic: "It is brilliant. I thoroughly enjoyed it and the girls loved it."

Daniel Radcliffe, aged 12, the young actor playing the film's schoolboy hero, appeared slightly overwhelmed by the outbreak of Pottermania outside the central London theater.

"I am almost numb with nerves and that has never happened before," he said above the hubbub. "I woke up last night at 3 a.m., 4 a.m. and 6 a.m., and although I am very nervous I am also extremely excited and happy today."

The Warner Bros production, which goes on general release from Nov. 16, is likely to rake in tens of millions of dollars, all suitably supported by a prodigious commercial operation.

The film, directed by Chris Colombus, tells the story of the young orphan Potter who possesses magical powers and studies at a school for sorcerers before embarking on a series of adventures with his friends Hermione, played by Emma Watson and Ron, played by Rupert Grint.

Pottermania is already big news — and big business — in Britain. Newspapers have run exclusive competitions, promotions and cartoons.

Last Christmas, BBC radio cleared its schedules for a unique, uninterrupted eight-hour reading of the book.

School playgrounds are awash with Harry Potter paraphernalia, books, cards, glasses like those worn by the young wizard.

And the Internet hosts scores of websites dedicated to Harry, chums Ron and Hermione, his favorite game Quidditch — a sort of magic lacrosse — and his sworn enemy Lord Valdemort.

AFP

Grisham makes me look forward to Christmas

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

MY sister Viel brought me an excellent "pasalubong," the latest John Grisham novel entitled ``Skipping Christmas.''

I have read all Grisham's works, except his last one, "A Painted House." I got through the first chapter, but it just couldn't hold my interest.

While I was hosting "The Buzz" last Sunday, Viel borrowed the book she'd given me. It's a very light read at only 177 pages so she was able to finish it before the family sat down to dinner. She shared my opinion about the readability of ``A Painted House,'' that's why she eagerly sent me a text message to say that ``Skipping Christmas'' has allowed Grisham to ``redeem'' himself.

This isn't a story about any lawyers, judges, or syndicates. It's a simple tale about Luther Krank, a tax accountant and his wife Nora. There aren't any courtroom trials, no money laundering, no death penalty arguments, and no offshore money laundering.

The couple's only child, Blair, immediately after the Thanksgiving holiday boards a plane bound for Peru where she'll be spending a year volunteering with the Peace Corps. Americans celebrate the Thanksgiving weekend starting on the last Thursday of November. I remember this vividly from our American exile since it would be around the same time my dad would be celebrating his birthday, on Nov. 27. After this holiday weekend, preparations for Christmas would be in full swing.

Since their only daughter won't be around, Luther Krank suggests they skip celebrating Christmas all together. No attending the company office party, no ordering and sending Christmas cards, no donations to the firemen, policemen, and medics who all have varying fund drives, no Christmas Eve party, and no Christmas tree or decorations whatsoever.

Last year, they'd spent more than $6,000. This year, they'll still give their $600 of charitable donations to the United Way and their Church, but that will be it. They are instead going on a Caribbean cruise, the entire package costing them $3,500, for 10 days of sunny bliss.

Grisham's writing in my opinion has always been witty, but this book is all the more enjoyable and laugh-out-loud funny because he's able to pinpoint the exact moments during the holiday season that we all end up exasperated and unwitting "Scrooge-like."

I'm sure all of you also dread the expenses of December. There are tip envelopes for everybody, the bill collectors, the maintenance men, the subscription and newspaper delivery boys, the water delivery men, the security guards, the barangay and police patrol, etc.

In our culture, there are the many godchildren as well. We also all tend to go overboard with our home decorations; we've read of fully decorated Christmas trees costing more than half a million pesos. In some affluent villages, it really does becomes a contest as to which house will have the most lights and the most creatively designed display.

That's why you have to spare an evening to read Grisham's "Skipping Christmas." He doesn't aim to put any deep religious overtures in his work, he just brings home the message that Christmas isn't a selfish, commercial exercise. It also shouldn't be looked upon as a time of extortion. Rather, it's the season where community spirit is most fervent and love of family is really at the forefront of priorities.

The book has so affected me that I'm now really looking forward to attending and completing the traditional Misa de Gallo, I can't wait to see our Christmas tree put up and festively decked out, and I now see the giving of Christmas tip envelopes as less of a chore and more of a thank-you for consistent service rendered throughout the year.

POWER PLANT
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DOWN TO EARTH - P 13 11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40	JEEPERS CREEPERS - R 18 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	LEGALLY BLONDE - P 13 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10
DON'T SAY A WORD - P 13 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:40	TRAINING DAY - R 18 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	THE ONE - P 13 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00

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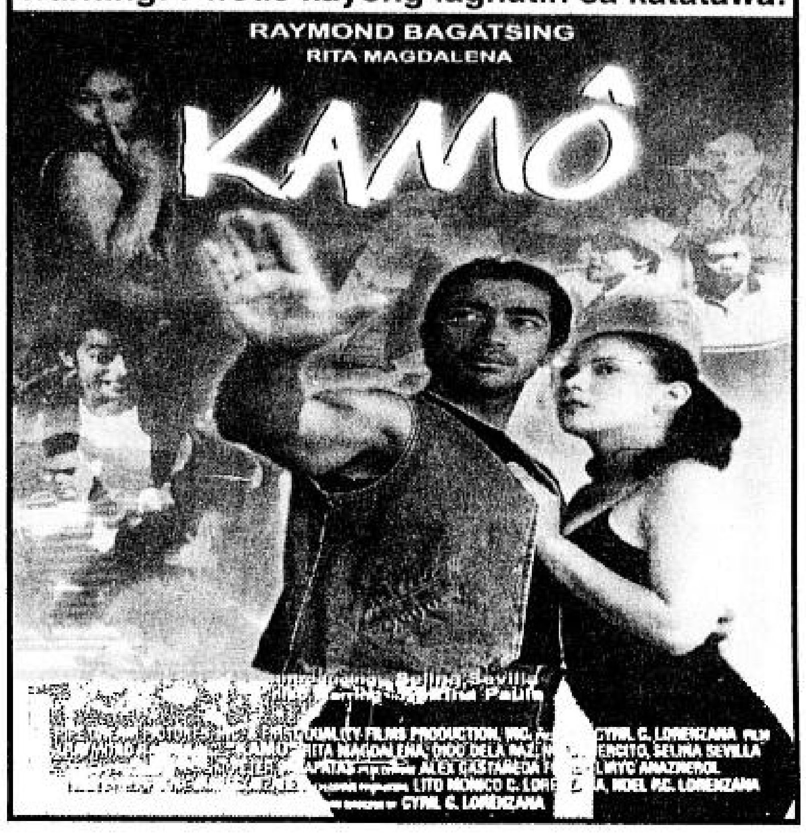

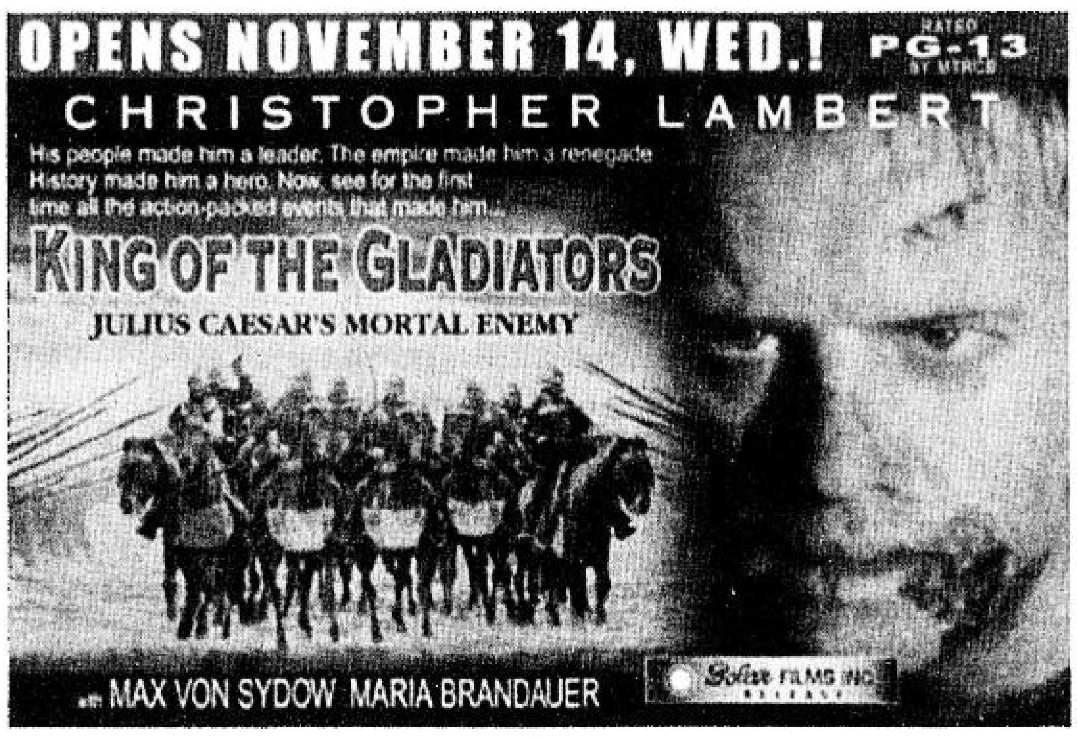
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KING OF THE GLADIATORS
JULIUS CAESAR'S MORTAL ENEMY
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Jet Li the hero and Jet Li the villain square off in Columbia Pictures' new stunt & special efx-packed sci-fi action thriller, "The One."
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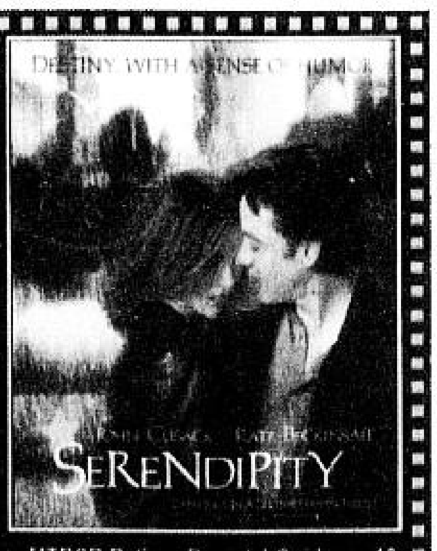

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PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
The Best Film About The Impact of The Spanish War @ ARTFILM - Glorietta 4
In the tradition of "Cinema Paradiso," BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE explores the extraordinary relationship between a shy young boy, Moncho, and his incredibly compassionate teacher, Don Gregorio, who teaches Moncho to find his way in a world that is increasingly frightening. When the Spanish Civil war breaks out on July 18, 1936, everything for the boy and his hero will unexpectedly change.
BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE stars the Spanish legend FERNANDO FERNAN GOMEZ who has a career that spans five decades as an actor, novelist, poet, and director. In 1998, he won the Goya (Spanish Oscar) for Best Lead Actor for his latest film "The Grandfather." The film also stars MANUEL LOZANO, UXIA BLANCO, GONZALO MARTIN URIARTE, ALEXIS de los SANTOS and GUILLERMO TOLEDO. The film won Best Film at the Cleveland International Film Festival & Best Screenplay at the Goya Awards.
Directed by JOSÉ LUIS CUERDA and written by RAFAEL AZCONA, BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE is based upon the MANUEL RIVAS novel Que Me Quieres, Amor?.
Language: Spanish with English subtitles

MTRCB RATING PG - 13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
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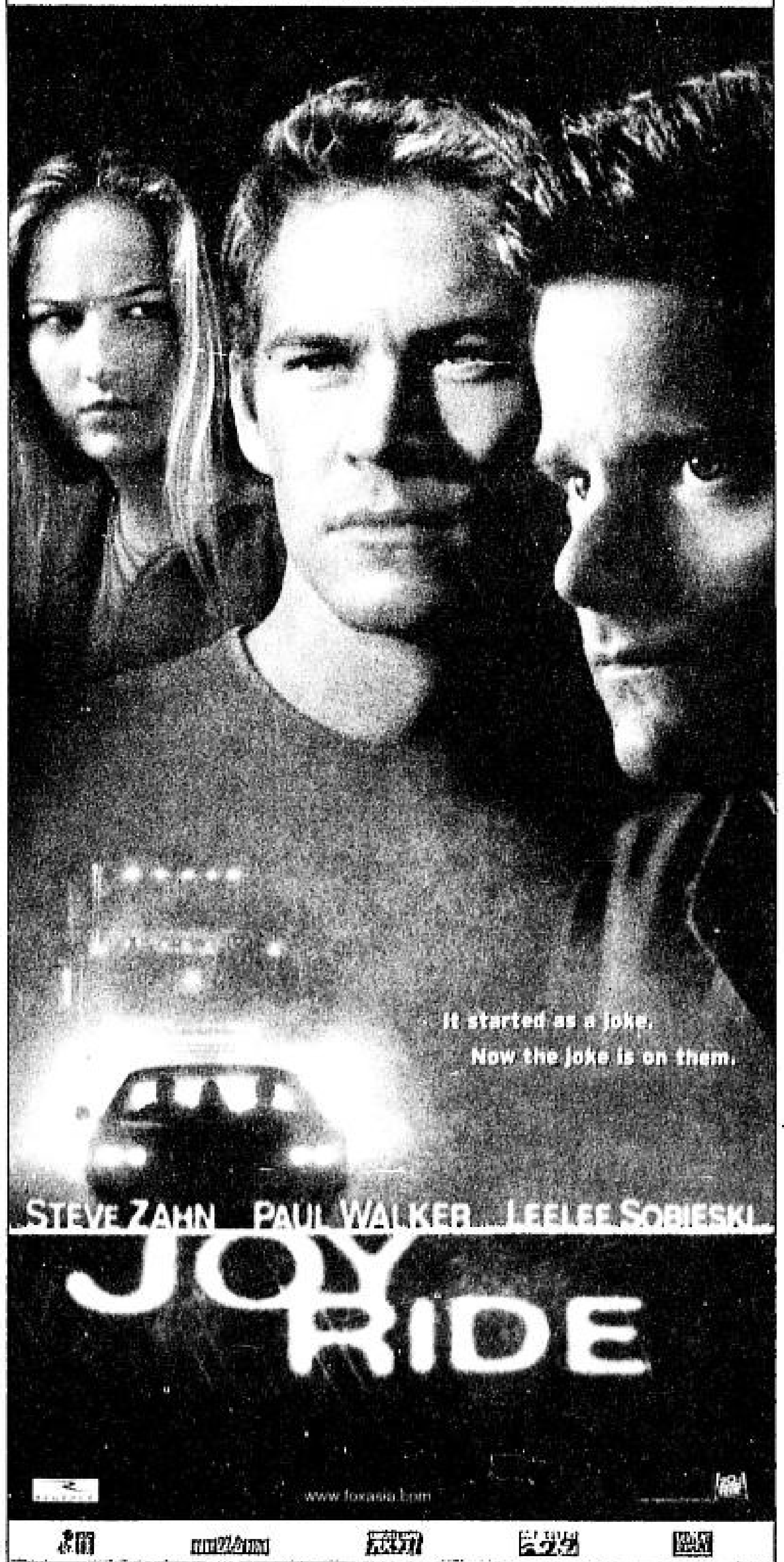
'COZ THIS WILL BE ONE HELL OF A RIDE!

It started as a joke.
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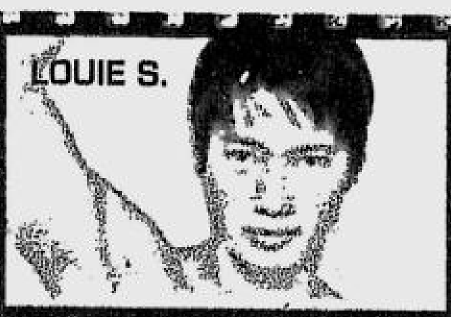

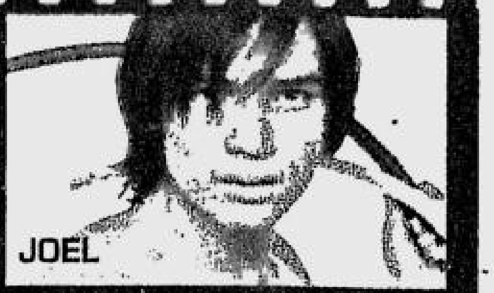

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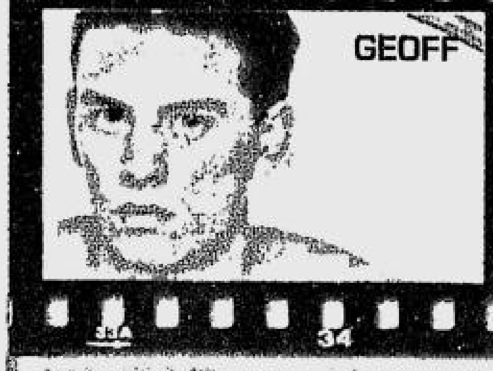
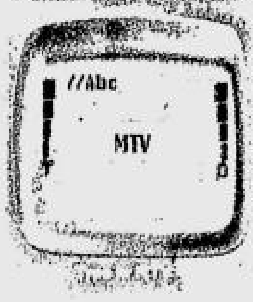


Think you know who's got the look? Then you could get a new SMART Buddy cellphone with a SMART-ized plus SIM card for free! Just use your SMART cellphone to pick the SMART Top Pick of the Year in the MTV Fashionista Awards and you could win one of two Nokia 8250 Phone Kits. It's so easy! Just register once, then text in your vote for your favorite male and female models. If your picks become the SMART Top Picks of the Year, then you've got a chance to win! So join now! And pick up a new SMART Buddy cellphone just by picking the right face!

HOW TO REGISTER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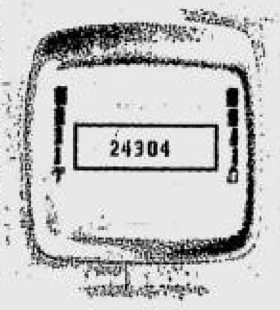
MTV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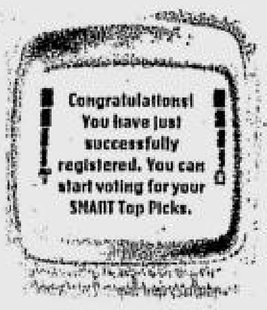
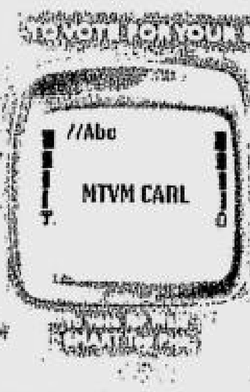

Congratulations! You have just successfully registered. You can start voting for your SMART Top Picks.

TO VOTE FOR YOUR SMART MALE/FEMALE TOP PICK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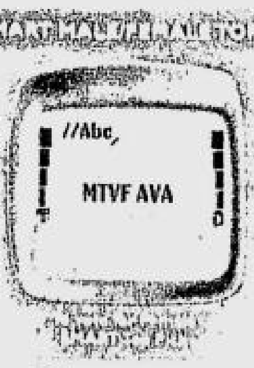
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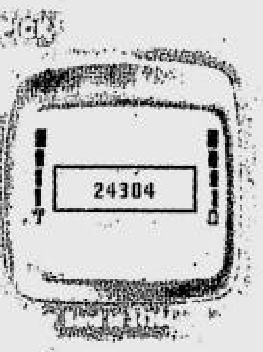
MTVF AVA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MECHANICS:

1. SMART Gold and SMART Buddy subscribers should register in order to qualify for the raffle. After registration, s/he must vote in his/her top male and/or female picks from the MTV Fashionista Awards finalists. All votes should be in by 12 midnight of Nov 12, 2001.
2. If your top pick(s) become(s) the SMART Top Picks of the Year, you have a chance to win one of the (2) SMART Buddy Nokia 8250 phone kits that SMART will be raffling off among the lucky texters.
3. Draw date will be held at the SMART office, 27th floor, SMART Tower, 6799 Ayala Avenue on November 14, 2001, [illegible] pm.
4. All winners will be notified through a congratulatory text message, a call and a [illegible].
5. Prizes will be claimed at Ace Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising, 10th flr. Feliza Building, 108 V.A. Rufino St. Legaspi Village, Makati City. To claim the prize, the winner must be able to present the congratulatory text message, notification letter and any valid ID. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days after receipt of notification will be forfeited with the prior approval of DTI.
6. Employees of SMART Communications, Bidshot Wireless Services, Sonera, and PILTEL, [illegible] their respective advertising agencies, as well as [illegible] SMART [illegible] including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity, are disqualified from joining the promotion.
7. Promo period is from November [illegible] 2001.

All successful text messages will be charged P2.50 per message sent. This service is powered by Bidshot Wireless Services.

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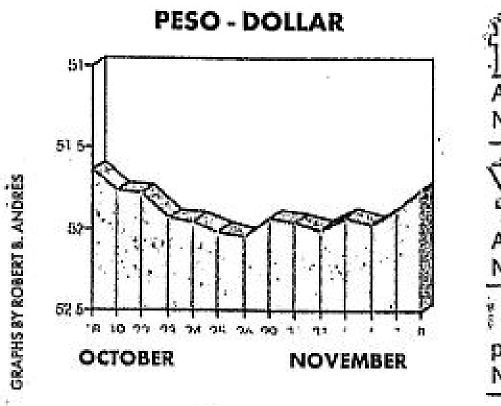


Peso-Dollar Rate

P 51.75 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Nov. 8, 2001

¥ 120.73 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Nov. 8, 2001

GOLD:$280.40/280.90
per ounce Hong Kong,
Nov. 8, 2001

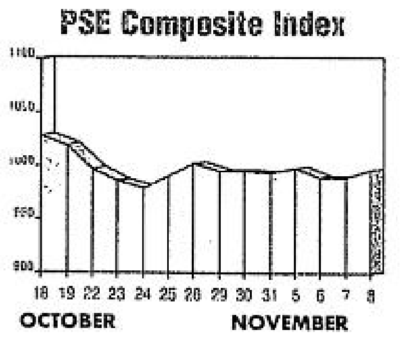
STOCK MARKET

Share prices rise

SHARE prices closed higher yesterday, buoyed by a fresh cut in central bank policy rates, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 7.23 points, or 0.7 percent, at 996.02, adding to Wednesday's 0.02 percent gain. Volume turnover rose to 204.77 million shares worth P472.69 million from 133.3 million shares worth P283.8 million on Wednesday.

The Bangko Sentral said it was shaving off 0.50 percentage point from its overnight rates effective Friday. *(See story on page B18.)* AP



(See stock market report on Page B2)

By Doris C. Dumlao
and Carlito Pablo

THE MACAPAGAL administration is no longer interested in an out-of-court settlement with San Miguel Corp. chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco on the coconut levy funds that were used to buy a 27-percent stake in the food and beverage giant.

In an interview yesterday, deputy commissioner Ruben Carranza of the Presidential Commission on Good Government said key government officials involved in the coconut levy issue met in Malacañang with the coconut farmer groups Wednesday night and the decision made was to continue litigating the case.

The meeting was attended by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor, Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino Cruz, Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, and Haydee Yorac, chair of the PCGG.

Also present were Teresita Deles, coordinator of the National Anti-Poverty Commission, and former Quezon Rep. Wigberto Tañada, currently president of the non-government organization Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement.

Carranza refuted recent talks in the stock market that Malacañang would announce a compromise next week that would allow the sale of a significant block in SMC and keep Cojuangco at the helm of management for two more years.

"We believe that the farmers will get a better deal either by winning the litigation or by having the coco levy funds declared as public funds," Carranza said.

The PCGG executive said the government was confident that it had a strong case at the Sandiganbayan and that there was no need to rush into any out-of-court settlement with Cojuangco.

"We're not closing our doors to a compromise. But we believe that there shall be two conditions for a compromise to be considered. The first is that there must be a recognition that the coco levy funds are public funds," Carranza said.

"The other condition is that any discussion on the settlement should not be limited to only one farmer's group, not just PKSMMN (Pambansang Koalisyon ng Manggagawa sa Niyugan)," he said.

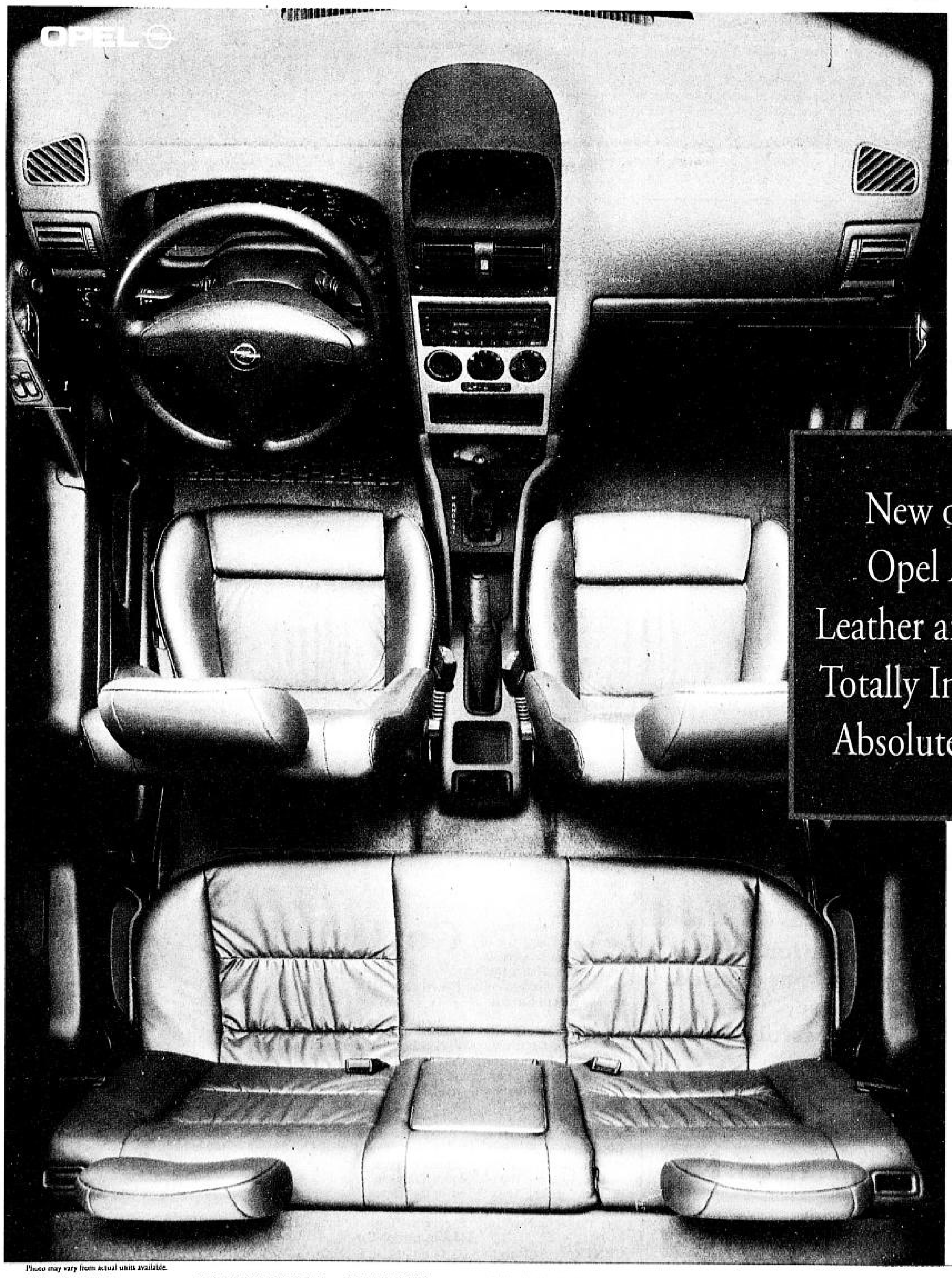
A few weeks ago, the leaders of PKSMMN and another faction, Coconut Producers Federation (Cocofed), both claimants to the coco levy fund, signed in the presence of Cojuangco a mutual pact to facilitate the resolution of the 16-year dispute. They urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to resolve the pending cases involving the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF).

Carranza said there were at least two executive orders drafted by PKSMMN and presented to Malacañang. However, he said the proposals would likely benefit

GOV'T/ B2

CUSTOMER INTERNET STATION

PRESIDENT Macapagal shares a light moment with chair Andrew Gotianun of East West Bank and Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura during the launching of the "New" East West Bank. EDWIN BACASMAS



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THREE-FOLD RISE

Globe profit jumps to ₱3.36B

By Abigail L. Ho

GLOBE Telecom announced a three-fold increase in nine-month net income yesterday, another indication that mobile phone firms are about the only part of the Philippine corporate landscape in healthy shape.

But analysts said Globe's growth in the third quarter was slower than earlier in the year, although it remained a fundamentally sound company.

Globe, the country's second largest mobile phone firm, said January-September net income jumped 219 percent to P3.357 billion from P1.051 billion in the same period last year.

The number of subscribers rose to more than 4 million from 2.6 million at the start of the year with the fold-in of Isla Communications Inc. (Islacom), it said.

"Year-on-year, the net income growth looks big, but the growth was slower during the third quarter than in the first and second quarters," said Jacob Nocom, an analyst at Asiasec Securities.

The slowdown was partly due to a big one-off expense for the Islacom acquisition, he said.

"But the growth momentum is still there. There could be an uptick in the fourth quarter as there is traditionally a stronger subscriber pick-up with consumers buying phones during the holiday season," he said.

To support its steady growth, Globe had earmarked more than P39 billion this year for its network expansion program. It has already spent P20.9 billion of that amount, 75 percent of which was used for its wireless business.

As for next year's capital expenditures (capex), Globe president and chief executive Gerardo Ablaza Jr. said they were still assessing consumer demand before they could finalize the company's financing plans.

Part of its capex for this year, about $150 million, would be carried over to next year's expansion capital pool, Ablaza said.

Globe's main rival, Smart Communications Inc., has about 4.3 million subscribers and has been the star performer in the stable of dominant telecommunications company Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT).

PLDT has said Smart posted net income of P2.8 billion in the first nine months from a year-earlier loss of P1.6 billion.

The surging profits at the two companies have been in sharp contrast to the doldrums over much of the rest of Philippine companies, which have been hurt by the global economic slowdown and depressed local demand.

Globe, which is owned by local conglomerate Ayala Corp., Singapore Telecommunications Ltd. and Deutsche Telekom, offers fixed-line as well, but those operations are dwarfed by the mobile services. *With a report from Reuters*

UNIVERSAL RIGHTFIELD PROPERTY HOLDINGS, INC.

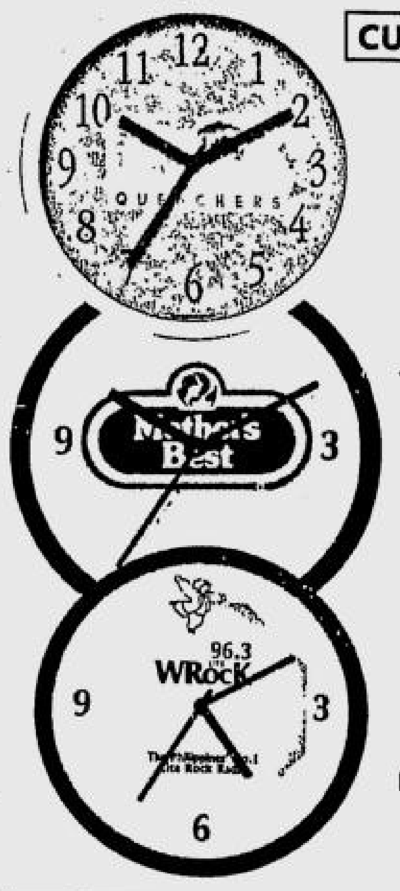
Notice of Postponement of Annual Shareholders' Meeting

TO: ALL STOCKHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given to all stockholders [as of the record date of 20 September 2001] that the Annual Shareholders' Meeting of the Corporation, which is scheduled on 12 November 2001, has been postponed until further notice.

Please be guided accordingly.

Sgd.
A. BAYANI K. TAN
Corporate Secretary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Anscor hikes stake in SPI Technologies

By Doris C. Dumlao

A. SORIANO Corp. (Anscor), the investment holding company of the Soriano family, has continued to increase its stake in information technology service exporter SPI Technologies Inc.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Anscor spokesperson Reginaldo Hernandez said the company had purchased on Tuesday another 4.78 million shares of SPI at P13.30 per share.

"The acquisition of said shares will bring to more than 10 percent the stake of Anscor in SPI Technologies," Hernandez said.

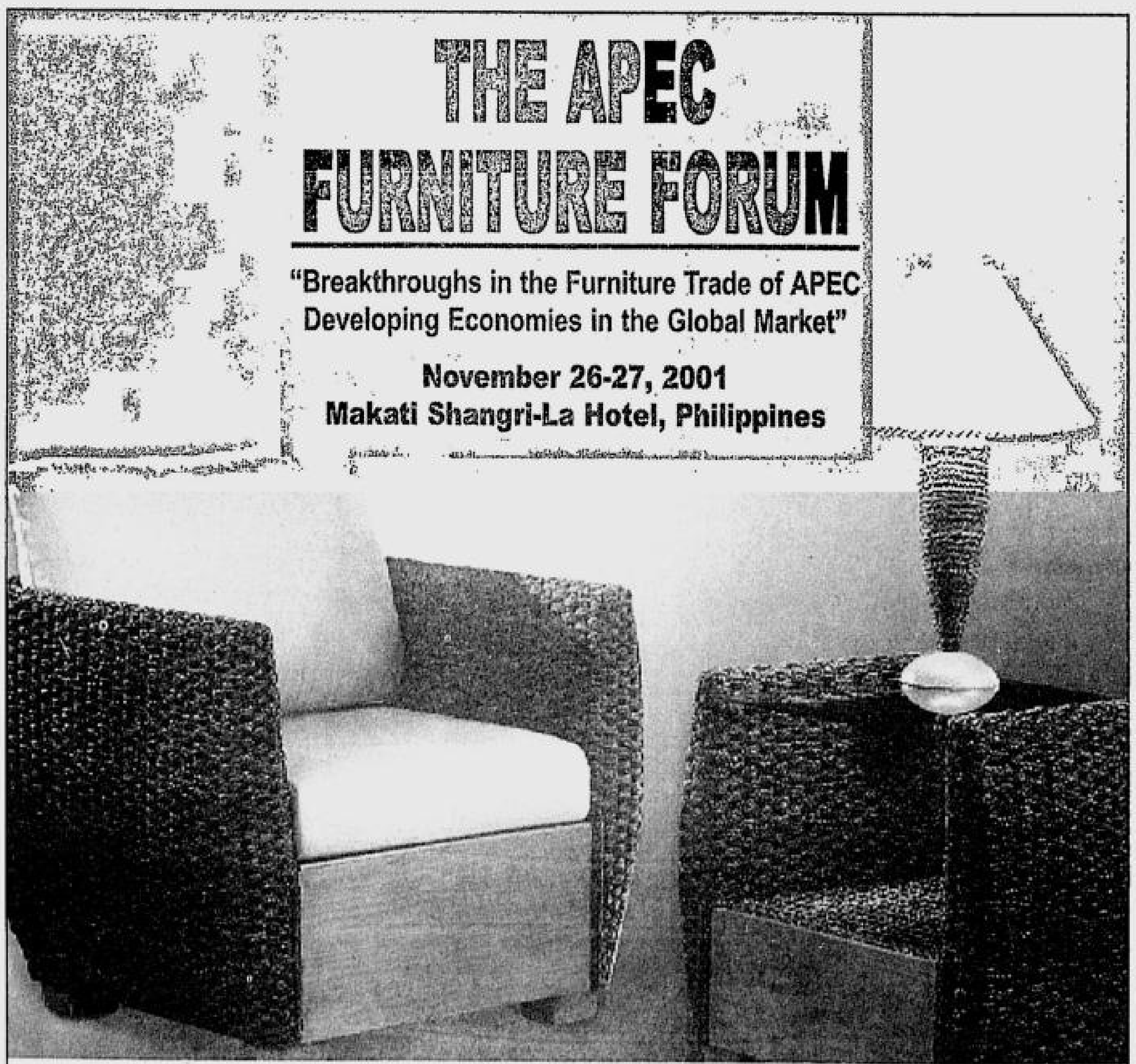
The Securities Regulation Code requires any company, which has purchased shares equivalent to more than 10 percent of a listed company to disclose ownership of these shares to the public.

Anscor, which has one existing board representation in SPI, has been accumulating additional shares in SPI from the open market during the last few weeks. The company earlier said it planned to make SPI the platform for its IT investments.

Anscor is the only local company with a strategic investment in SPI, which is 70-percent owned by foreign investors. It first invested in SPI in late 2000 when it bought 8.3 million shares at P12 each, equivalent to 4.07 percent of SPI's total outstanding shares of 203.66 million. Anscor chair Andres Soriano III then joined SPI as a board member.

SPI is a leading IT service provider in the country. It is engaged in data conversion, litigation support, software programming/enterprise resource planning and call center businesses.

The biggest shareholder of SPI, controlling about 40 percent, is Crimson Asia Capital, a venture capital fund based in Silicon Valley controlled by the family of Taiwanese banking tycoon Jeffrey Koo. Another 10 percent is held by Singapore-based fund Arisaig Partners and 8 percent by Hong Kong-based Electra Partners Mauritius.



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The APEC Furniture Forum is organized by the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines (CFIP) in cooperation with the Furniture Industry Board Foundation Inc. (FIBFI) and the Deaprtment of Trade and Industry (DTI), and supported by the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

dti DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

DISCLOSURES

CHINA Banking Corp. approved the nomination of Chia-Jang Liu as new director of the bank, replacing Herman Chen who was recalled to **International Commercial Bank of China** in Taipei. The bank also approved to discontinue the operations of its 40-percent owned **CBC Finance Inc.** by year's end.

* * *

HOUSE of Investments Inc. announced the resignation of the following: Rizalino Navarro as chair, president and CEO; Marcelo Dy as corporate secretary; Alfonso Yuchengco and Alfonso Yuchengco III as directors. Helen Dee was elected director and replacement of Navarro. Elected to replace Dy was Guia Margarita Qua, while Basil Ong was elected director. The new members of the executive committee are Dee, Ong and Perry Uy.

* * *

WELLEX Industries Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 14 at the Top of the Citi, Citibank Tower in Makati City. Record date was set for Nov. 16.

* * *

CENTRAL Azucarera Don Pedro bought 200,000 of its shares at P0.80 per share. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, November 8, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	5,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43.5	43.5	43	43.5	200,800
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	17.25	17.25	17	17	29,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	156	158	155	156	243,490
Philippine National Bank	47	48	47	47.5	581,200
Phil. Savings Bank	28	29	28	29	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	17.5	17.5	17	17	121,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	140,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1350	1355	1345	1345	1,540
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	50,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1095	1095	1095	1095	1,040
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	26	26	25.5	25.5	500
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	190,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	550	560	550	560	1,160
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	355	362.5	355	360	76,370
Ivantage Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	230,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	4,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	21.25	21.25	21	21.25	82,600
Manila Electric Co. B	32	32	28.5	29	2,262,300
Petron Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	2,137,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	63,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	40,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	3,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	227,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	3,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	23.5	23.75	23.5	23.75	4,000
RFM Corp.	2.02	2.02	1.94	1.94	1,920,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41	42	41	42	28,400
San Miguel Corp. B	49	51	49	50.5	662,600
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	5,675,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.4	203,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	10,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	180,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	100,000
Boulevard Holding's Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.51	0.45	0.51	3,050,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.0925	0.09	0.09	5,400,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	400,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	22	22	21.5	22	1,133,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.1	0.1	500,000
Ionics Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	12,000
Medco Holdings	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	8,670,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.56	0.59	0.56	0.59	77,370,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.16	6,000,000
Music Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	540,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	300,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.11	0.09	0.11	710,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	20,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	10,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	310,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10	10	9.8	9.8	106,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	580,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	70,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	26.5	26.5	26	26	3,393,300
Jollibee Warrants	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	2,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	6,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.4	4.4	4.35	4.4	12,364,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.195	100,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.08	1.12	1.08	1.12	4,614,000
City & Land Developers	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	400,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.4	1,373,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	14,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	3,000,000
Oil					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	15,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	17,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,374,570	80,309,730.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	134,235,230	324,936,100.00
PRO	18,961,000	67,173,160.00
Mining	17,100,000	65,400.00
OIL	32,010,000	81,700.00
GRAND TOTALS:	203,680,800	472,566,090.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	388.84	DOWN 1.12
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,417.19	UP 10.76
PRO	431.94	UP 7.45
Mining	935.93	UP 6.16
OIL	1.16	UP 0.02
All Shares Index	660.62	UP 1.37
Composite	996.02	UP 7.23

NO. OF ADVANCES: 22; NO. OF DECLINES: 21; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 28;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 71; NO. OF TRADES: 1,434

CURRENCIES

Nov. 08, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.113462	1.000000	51.9400
Japan	Yen	0.009206	0.008268	0.4294
United Kingdom	Pound	1.630108	1.464000	76.0402
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.142935	0.128370	6.6675
Switzerland	Franc	0.680850	0.611471	31.7598
Canada	Dollar	0.696436	0.625469	32.4869
Singapore	Dollar	0.614475	0.551860	28.6636
Australia	Dollar	0.573358	0.514933	26.7456
Bahrain	Dinar	2.953637	2.652661	137.7792
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.297717	0.267380	13.8877
Brunei	Dollar	0.611120	0.548847	28.5071
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000105	0.000094	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.024954	0.022411	1.1640
UAE	Dirham	0.303230	0.272331	14.1449
Korea	Won	0.000869	0.000780	0.0405
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.898100	46.6473
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.459191	23.8504
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136914	7.1113
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.407540	21.1676
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.065267	3.3900
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022263	1.1563
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000464	0.0241
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.151050	7.8455
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.00448	0.2327
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005398	0.2804
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022263	1.1563
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.140352	59.2299

Gov't junks . . .

(From page B1)

mostly the big farmers' groups like Cocofed.

Cojuangco and his associates at the Cocofed have asserted that the coconut levy, which was collected on the strength of a series of decrees issued by then President Ferdinand Marcos, was a private fund.

The government, through the PCGG, had filed during the Aquino administration cases before the anti-graft court Sandiganbayan in a bid to recover the funds.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao earlier said that Ms Macapagal was looking at the possibility of forging a settlement in order to unlock the funds and use the money to rehabilitate the ailing coconut industry.

But when asked for his comment yesterday, Tiglao said he was not aware of the meeting last Wednesday night.

"I'll find out. I'm not aware of it," Tiglao said.

Ms Macapagal had previously shelved EO 313, which was issued by deposed President Joseph Estrada, which sought to sell the 27-percent SMC stake and convert the same into a perpetual trust fund.

Farmer groups have objected to a number of key provisions in the executive order, particularly the automatic assignment of a Cocofed representative to the board that will manage the trust fund.

Farmers also opposed the provision which automatically allocates to the Cocofed 20 percent of earnings to be generated by the fund.

Cojuangco was a close Marcos associate and was also identified with Estrada.

The source said: "We have evaluated the government's evidence and we are confident in our case."

DTI eyed to oversee lending investors

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is seeking to transfer regulation over the 7,000 lending investors to the Department of Trade and Industry.

In a letter to Sen. Franklin Drilon, SEC chair Lilia Bautista appealed for the early passage of Senate Bill 443, the Lending Company Regulation Act, which provides for the regulation of the activities of lending investors under the SEC.

"We would, however, suggest that the regulatory agency to oversee such activity should be the Department of Trade and Industry since it has the offices all over the country and since it has jurisdiction over small scale businesses," Bautista said.

Recently, the SEC issued a circular requiring lending investors to comply with the requirements of the Financing Company Act of 1998 and its implementing rules and regulations.

It called for lending investors organized as partnerships or single proprietorships to convert into corporations within a year of the effectivity of the circular and to comply with the P2.5-million to P10-million capitalization requirement of the Financing Company Act within three years.

The Chamber of Lending Investors of the Philippines and other similar associations, however, have come up with a position paper manifesting their opposition to the circular and to a justice department opinion that lending investors, which perform the function of a financing company and do not perform quasi-banking functions, fall within the regulatory jurisdiction of the SEC.

In a separate letter to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, Bautista asked his assistance in pushing for the endorsement of SB 443 as a priority bill of the government.

China Bank posts 33% jump in 9-month profit

CHINA Banking Corp., the country's 11th largest, announced a 33-percent increase in profit in the first nine months of the year to P663 million from P497 million during the same period last year.

China Bank attributed the increase to higher investments in government securities and good cost management.

China Bank's investments in bonds and other debt instruments rose 76 percent to P23 billion last September from P13 billion in June this year.

Net interest income was higher by 7 percent despite a 9-percent increase in expenses.

The bank has set aside loan-loss provisions of P550 million in the first nine months and expects to allocate additional provisions in the next quarter.

Meanwhile, in another statement, China Bank said it approved the dissolution of its 40-percent owned affiliate, CBC Finance Inc., a small finance company.

CBC Finance has a remaining loan portfolio of about P12 million and was no longer active in receivables financing. Its dissolution will be effective at the end of the year.

China Bank clarified that the closure of CBC Finance has no material effect on the results of its operations or financial position. The bank continues to conduct its receivables financing business through its consumer banking group.

BSP okays merger proposal

By Elena R. Torrijos

BANK of Commerce is poised to absorb Traders Royal Bank of the Benedicto family after getting approval from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday.

Under an agreement with shareholders of TRB, Bank of Commerce would assume P12 billion in identified assets and an equal amount of selected liabilities.

In line with the transaction, the government would lend as much as P2 billion to Bank of Commerce to allow the bank to liquefy TRB's non-performing loans and non-performing assets over a period of time, Bank of Commerce president Raul de Mesa said in an interview.

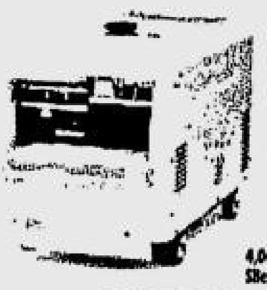
State-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. had already approved the deal a month ago.

De Mesa said the bank would be able to integrate TRB into its operations within a month's time after the BSP's go-ahead.

With 55 branches, located mostly in the Visayas and Mindanao, TRB would bring Bank of Commerce's total branch network to 110. Bank of Commerce would also likely see its asset base climb to roughly P30 billion from P20 billion.

As of the third week of September, TRB counted assets of P10 billion, deposits of P7.085 billion and loans of P4.8 billion, of which two-thirds are non-performing, meaning no interest or principal has been paid in at least 90 days.

Bank of Commerce is owned by the family of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. chair Antonio Cojuangco and the Sobrepeña family's College Assurance Plan group.



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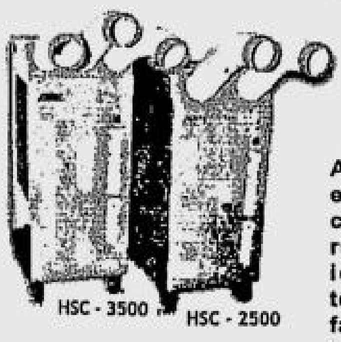

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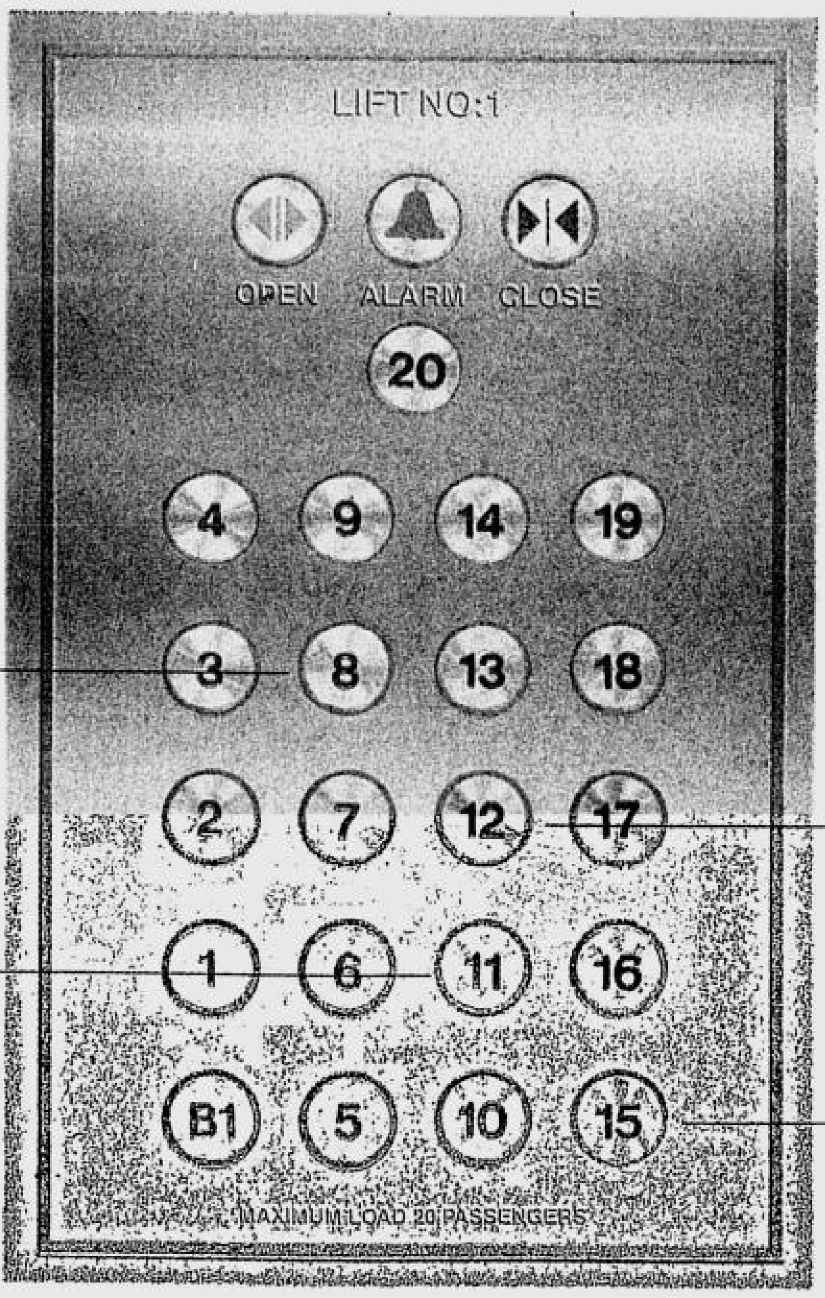

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BSP chief sees inflation slipping below 5%

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday inflation would slip below 5 percent in the last two months of the year, citing lower fuel prices.

"I think inflation will be lower than 5 percent in November and in December, and the average for the year will hit 6.5 percent, which is well within the target," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said in a news briefing.

Inflation measures movements in the prices of basic goods.

Domestic petroleum prices have been falling in recent months and are expected to continue falling next month on weak world crude prices, he said.

As of Nov. 2, the prices of Dubai crude, the country's benchmark, averaged $18.13 a barrel, down by $1.50 from the October average of $19.63 a barrel.

In September, Dubai crude prices stood at $24.12 a barrel.

Consumer and Oil Price Watch chair Raul Concepcion said earlier he expected local fuel to go down by an average P1.32 a liter this month.

The November reduction is likely as the prices of crude in the world market have stabilized to a record low of $20 a barrel, Concepcion said.

Local oil firms led by industry giants Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. have slashed their prices seven times this year on weak crude prices abroad. On average, their prices have gone down by 21 to 35 centavos per liter.

On Oct. 25, Petron led an earlier-than-expected round of petroleum price rollbacks, slashing the cost of its gasoline by 30 centavos a liter and of diesel and kerosene by 20 centavos a liter.

On Oct. 11, oil companies slashed prices by between 21 and 35 centavos a liter, citing improved market conditions between August and September.

In October, inflation fell to 5.4 percent from 6.1 percent in September.

The central bank's Buenaventura said the recent P30 minimum wage increase would have little impact on inflation, as it would be implemented in two batches.

He added that recent cuts in the central bank's key rates would also be non-inflationary.

Yesterday, the BSP cut its overnight interest rates by half a percentage point, taking lending rates to 10.5 percent, and said further cuts were likely this year to boost the economy amid a global slowdown.

On Wednesday, Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said inflation would fall below 5 percent by year's end, as consumer prices continued to soften despite fallouts from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

Canlas told reporters during a summit on world population that inflation, which had been falling below expectations in recent months, would likely continue falling.

Canlas said one reason for his low-inflation forecast was the "base year" effect. With a high base recorded for November and December last year, he said year-on-year inflation for the last two months of the year would be lower.

"There's also a decline in crude oil prices as well as in the prices of some primary commodities like agricultural products. I guess this is because of weak growth in consumer demand," he added.

Public schools to get free Net access

By Abigail L. Ho

IN its effort to bridge the "digital divide," Globe Telecom Inc. and its subsidiary, Isla Communications Co., signed on Tuesday a memorandum of agreement with the Foundation for Information Technology Education and Development (Fit-Ed) to provide Internet connectivity to public high schools all over the country.

"We are committed to addressing the so-called digital divide within the country, between those who have access to the Internet and those who do not, by providing effective and sustainable solutions to the problem of Internet connectivity," Globe senior vice president Gil Genio said.

This MOA, signed by Genio and Fit-Ed chair Roberto Romulo, is an offshoot of the memorandum of understanding they signed in August last year.

Under the memorandum, Globe and Islacom, together with other telecommunications firms, will provide up to 1,000 public high schools in their service areas free Internet access for one year. For the succeeding years, the selected schools will be charged discounted rates.

This effort is particularly timely as one of the areas that has felt the greatest impact of the rapid development of information and communication technology in recent years has been education, Genio said.

For schools to be competitive in the new economic environment, Genio stressed that basic literacy skills should be enhanced by computing skills.

By way of the program, public high school students would gain access to the Internet at little or no cost. As a result, they would also be able to access resource materials that would have otherwise been out of their reach.

Genio further noted that the Internet, when used properly, could be a powerful research tool for students and teachers as well.

"This is particularly significant for many Philippine schools which have limited library resources. Teachers can use the Internet to access the most current books, journals and other subject matter resources. On the other hand, when technology is effectively integrated into classroom learning, students are given the opportunity to tap into the knowledge base made available by the Internet," he said.

Genio added that school administrations could also use the Internet and related technologies to keep in closer touch with relevant educational institutions at the regional and national levels.

Globe's first beneficiary for the Fit-Ed program was Parang High School in Marikina City, which has a student population of over 4,600.

Globe's service areas include Makati, San Juan, Mandaluyong, Marikina, Pasig, Cavite, Batangas, Mindoro Occidental, Mindoro Oriental, Palawan, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat.

Islacom, on the other hand, services Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Guimaras, Negros Oriental, Siquijor, Bohol, Cebu, Eastern Samar, Leyte, Northern Samar, Southern Leyte, Samar and Biliran.

Asean identifies gas pipe connections

By Ronnel W. Domingo

KUALA LUMPUR—The Asean Council on Petroleum has identified seven potential gas pipeline interconnections that will link natural gas producers and buyers within the region, including a link between Indonesia all the way to Batangas.

Mohamad Farid bin Mohamad Amin, chief of Ascope's Trans-Asean Gas Pipeline task force, said the seven new links would complete a network of pipelines that would transport natural gas throughout the region.

"The TAGP will form the backbone of energy security and sustainability of supply in the Asean by 2020," Mohamad told delegates of the 7th Ascope Conference and Exhibition held here.

This would promote a more sustainable development in the region and provide a key driver of growth to the various energy consuming sectors of Asean, he added.

The planned new seven links include:

- South Sumatra, Indonesia to Malaysia;
- West Natuna, Indonesia to Duyong, Malaysia;
- Thailand to East Natuna, Indonesia to Singapore;
- East Natuna, Indonesia to Sabah, Malaysia to Luzon, Philippines;
- Malaysia to Thailand; and,
- Peninsular Malaysia to Arun, Sumatra, Indonesia.

The link from Indonesia to the Philippines would connect the natural gas facilities of Indonesia to that of the Malampaya gas terminal in Batangas City through the offshore platform north of Palawan.

Malampaya gas, which is transported via a 504-kilometer undersea pipeline to Batangas, is expected to run out after about 20 years.

Mohamad pointed out that the Philippines, along with Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand plans to import natural gas from within Asean to meet their future energy needs.

He said that most of the gas pipeline interconnections are to be done based on bilateral deals between buyers and sellers, the total cost of the infrastructure would be about $7 billion.

"(The amount) includes the costs of compression and platform, but excludes drilling costs," he said.

Law on holiday

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

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AFTER that long weekend holiday, legal issues are being raised by both employers and employees on how to apply the law and jurisprudence on holiday pay premium. The Bureau of Working Conditions should anticipate questions on this issue and perforce should educate the public accordingly.

Malacañang is also planning to declare a week-long Christmas holiday in response to suggestions from the tourism sector to perk up the fast-deteriorating local tourism industry. That again shall give rise to questions on the legal implications of long holidays on wages and work. The Department of Labor and Employment should issue a wage advisory on this. Meanwhile, we'll try to help.

Applicable laws

Principally, the applicable laws are Article 94 of the Labor Code, Executive Order 204 issued by President Aquino in 1987, which enumerated the regular holidays and special days, and Presidential Decree 1083, which recognized five Muslim holidays, and PD 1198 issued in 1973.

Article 94 mandates that all workers shall be paid regular daily wages during regular holidays, except employees of the government, including those employed in state-run corporations, retail and service establishments regularly employing less than 10 workers, domestics, managerial employees and members of the managerial staff, field personnel, pure commission-earning personnel, piece-rate and "*pakyaw*" workers, and family members of employees.

Recognized holidays

The only recognized holidays are New Year, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Araw ng Kagitingan (April 4), Labor Day, Independence Day, National Heroes Day (last Sunday of August), Bonifacio Day, Christmas and Rizal Day. The nationwide special days are All Saints' Day (Nov.1) and Dec. 31. July 4 and election days are no longer legal holidays.

The difference between regular holidays and special days is that a covered employee who does not work on a holiday is nonetheless paid 100 percent of his daily wage, provided he reports for work or is on leave with pay on the day immediately preceding. An employee is not entitled to any pay if he does not work on a special day.

Premium for holiday work

A covered employee who works on regular holidays gets double or 200 percent of his regular pay, while an employee gets only 130 percent if he renders work on a special day. Thus, a worker who earns P250 a day shall get P500 for working on Christmas day. He gets only P325 if he works on All Saints' Day.

He who works on a holiday falling on his rest day shall get 260 percent. Thus, a worker gets P650 if he works on National Heroes Day if it falls on his rest day. Overtime work on a holiday shall be paid 230 percent. Thus, for an eight-hour overtime on a holiday, the same worker gets P575 on top of the P500 for the first eight hours. If the special day like Nov. 1 falls on the worker's rest day, he gets 150 percent or P375.

Private school teachers' holiday pay

Rule IV, Book 3, Section 8(a) of the Labor Code's implementing rules state that private school teachers are not entitled to holiday pay during semestral breaks, but they must be paid for all holidays during school semesters and Christmas vacation.

In the case of JRC vs. NLRC (Dec. 1, 1987), the Supreme Court, among others, held that the school is liable to pay hourly-rate faculty members their regular rate on days declared as special holidays or when classes are suspended or shortened on account of typhoons, floods, rallies and the like, whether or not extensions or make-up classes are ordered. Work on these extensions shall be separately compensated.

Muslim holidays

Muslim provinces named under PD 1083 are allowed to observe five holidays: Amun Jadid (New Year), Maulid-un-Nabi (Muhammad's birth), Lailatul Isra Wal Mi Rai (Muhammad's ascension), Id-ul-Fitr (end of Ramadan) and Id-ul-Adha (10th day of the 12th lunar month). The specific dates shall be determined by the Office of the President.

All employees, whether Muslims or not, inside Muslim provinces are entitled to these holidays. Muslim employees, even those working in Manila or in any place outside Muslim provinces, are likewise entitled to holidays. Thus, Muslim workers have more benefits than the rest of the working class.

Problem situations

When two regular holidays fall on the same day, workers may think that they are entitled to 400 percent of their basic daily rate. On April 9, 1993, the Araw ng Kagitingan and the Good Friday fell on the same day. Then, Labor Undersecretary Cris Trajano issued on March 11 that year an explanatory bulletin declaring that to treat April 9 as one and not two holidays would be tantamount to a diminution of benefits. The Supreme Court disagreed in the case of Wellington vs. Trajano (July 3, 1995).

Where there are two successive holidays, like Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, an employee may not be paid for both holidays if he fails to report for work on Wednesday preceding the first holiday. If he works on Maundy Thursday, he will be entitled to Good Friday as a holiday.

Monthly paid vs daily paid

Monthly-paid employees are, as a general rule, assured of being paid every day of the month, including rest days, Sundays, holidays and special days although he does not normally work on these days.

The Labor Code's provision on holiday pay is primarily intended to benefit daily-paid workers, who are generally bound by the "no-work, no-pay" principle. The Supreme Court, however, clarified in the leading case of Insular Bank vs. Inclong (Oct. 23, 1984), that the law on holiday pay did not exclude monthly-paid employees.

Compliance and proof

The burden of proving compliance with all the above is again on the employer. Failure to show proof of payment is fatal to management. (Ala Mode vs. NLRC, Feb. 17, 1997).

For details, you may ask BWC Director Fonte Pugoon, DOLE-National Capital Region Director Alex Meraan or your friendly neighborhood lawyer. It is always best to ask before taking action. *(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph.)*

Oil firms shifting pricing schemes

By Christine A. Gaylican

WITH their recent cut in their prices, local oil companies are introducing the public to a new pricing strategy that is free from political influence and is market-driven.

Local oil firms led by the so-called Big Three—Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc.—cut their prices anew on Wednesday, the eighth rollback so far this year.

New oil players Total Petroleum Corp., Unioil Petroleum Corp., Filpride Resources Inc. also changed their price boards and implemented similar adjustments in their gasoline and diesel prices.

Oil company officers said they wanted the public to appreciate this new pricing pattern

Pilipinas Shell vice president Reynaldo Gamboa said in a statement that the price changes were in keeping with the announced approach of the company to make more frequent price adjustments in line with the movements of crude prices in the world market.

Petron vice president Antonio Pelayo said this would likely be the new pricing strategy that Petron wanted to adopt.

The company usually waited for the third week of the month before allowing pump prices to reflect the previous month's average crude prices and peso-dollar exchange rate.

"Since the local downstream industry is deregulated, we would want local prices to follow the world market trends may it be on a downward or upward movement," said Pelayo.

Domestic petroleum prices have been falling in recent months and are expected to continue falling next month on weak world crude prices, he said.

As of Nov. 2, the prices of Dubai crude, the country's benchmark, averaged $18.13 a barrel, down by $1.50 from the October average of $19.63 a barrel.

In September, Dubai crude prices stood at $24.12 a barrel.

Consumer and Oil Price Watch chair Raul Concepcion said earlier, he expected local fuel to go down by an average P1.32 a liter this month.

The November reduction is likely as the prices of crude in the world market have stabilized to a record low of $20 a barrel, Concepcion said.

Local oil firms led by industry giants Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. have slashed their prices seven times this year on weak crude prices abroad. On average, their prices have gone down by 21 to 35 centavos per liter.

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Nov. 13, 2001 (Tuesday)
EFFECTIVE INFLUENCING SKILLS
Alan Barker, Regional Director for Asia Pacific, Strategic Consulting Services Inc. and Director, IMPACT Consultancy Group (SCS Philippine partner), will discuss the importance of influencing skills in leadership and identify the underlying motive, thought patterns and competencies needed in the skillful use of influence. He will illustrate how one can acquire these competencies and supporting skills for more effective leadership.

Nov. 14, 2001 (Wednesday)
EFFECTIVE CONFLICT RESOLUTION TECHNIQUES
Josie Santamaria, President, Career Systems, Inc., will talk about the nature of conflict and attitudes and behaviors of people in conflict, identify the best way to manage conflict, outline the steps in conflict resolution, and teach you how to apply these techniques in your particular situation.

Nov. 15, 2001 (Thursday)
MANAGING RISKS IN LIFE AND AT WORK
David Jacob, President, Marsh Philippines, which provides risk management services, will talk about the kinds of risks facing companies and people at work, the values and attitudes towards risks, and the ways companies and individuals can lessen the risks and its consequences and prepare for worst case scenarios.

All sessions will be conducted from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCIB Tower 1, Makati Ave. cor. H. V. de la Costa St., Makati City, Metro Manila. Tickets are available at P250 (balcony), P300 (orchestra) and P350 (patron). Early bird discount of 10% shall be given to the first 100 registrants per seminar. Registration fee includes handouts and certificate of completion. Snacks will NOT be served because eating in the auditorium is prohibited.

Register at the following Inquirer Classified Ads branches: Main-Pasong Tamo, Makati City, 897-8808/ 897-2535; G/F Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City 811-4361/ 811-4370/ 811-4012; St. Anthony's Bldg., Aurora Blvd, Quezon City 421-1420/ 421-0343; SM Megamall,Mandaluyong City 635-0219/ 637-2008; G/F Trinity Bldg., 636 T.M. Kalaw St., Manila 527-3342/ 528-0183/ 527-6357 *or at the* OPTIMUS MANAGERS AND ADVISORS,INC. *office* at the 2nd floor, Benjamin I Bldg., 62 Sgt. Esguerra St. cor. Mo. Ignacia Ave., South Triangle, Quezon City 414-0186, 414-0587.

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Car sales fall on weak demand, restive labor

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AS low consumer confidence and restive labor tow sales of cars and commercial vehicles lower through the first 10 months this year, local assemblers are fretting that a surge in sales of second-hand vehicles sold through mushrooming auction sites will further pull down demand for new vehicles.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. reported that sales dropped 11.5 percent to 63,680 units in the first 10 months this year from 71,977 units during the same period last year.

Passenger cars took the biggest blow, with a 21.6-percent fall in sales to 20,017 units in the first 10 months this year from 25,536 units during the same period last year.

Commercial vehicles lost 6 percent to 43,663 units in the first nine months from 41,220 during the same period last year.

Sales in both passenger cars and commercial vehicles in October were slightly up the previous month but were sharply down from year-ago levels.

An official of a local assembler said sales were dampened by the proliferation of second-hand vehicles, notably sport-utility vehicles, passenger vans and trucks brought in and sold through auctions in sites outside the Subic Bay freeport area in Olongapo.

These vehicles come mostly from Japan and are converted from right-hand to left-hand drive.

The industry official said second-hand vehicles were being sold without regard for safety standards or emission limits.

New registrations at the Land Transportation Office showed that more than half were second-hand vehicles.

Should sales continue to decline until next year, the official warned, assemblers would be forced to further trim production and terminate more workers.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. and Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. retained their first and second positions in the industry, with sales of 16,291 units (a 25.6-percent market share) and 14,189 (a 22-percent share), respectively.

Isuzu Philippines Corp. grabbed third place, with sales of 8,021 (12.6 percent), overtaking Honda Cars Philippines Inc., which dropped to fourth with sales of 7,993 (12.55 percent).

In fifth position was the Nissan group with combined sales of 7,062 (11 percent) for Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. and Universal Motors Corp.

Concession deals seen in Napocor asset sale

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE GOVERNMENT has decided to enter into concession agreements with private power firms to dispose of the state-owned National Power Corp.'s transmission assets estimated to be worth over $2 billion.

In an interview, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said the government balked at an outright sale because it wanted to retain partial control of the country's transmission lines.

Perez said feasibility studies also showed that concession agreements would give the government a more flexible position with regard to tax matters related to Napocor's transmission assets.

Napocor is set to sell its transmission facilities early next year, kicking off its privatization.

Perez said the government wanted to sell Napocor's transmission assets ahead of its power plants to take advantage of the market's sentiments.

South Korea and Singapore are also deregulating their energy markets by selling their power plants first, he said. The Philippines will compete with these countries if it decides to sell Napocor's power plants ahead of its transmission assets, he explained.

He said the plan was to attract more buyers for the power-generation assets. This would be more likely if investors knew that a world-class operator would be managing Napocor's transmission assets.

British firm National Grid Plc. and the government has received about 10 proposals from Asian and European investors to buy Napocor's transmission assets.

These prospective buyers are now assessing the regulatory environment and seeing if the assets are in good condition, Edgardo del Fonso, president of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., said.

"We have received a handful of proposals from various investors, at least eight to 10," according to Del Fonso.

The government has scheduled the sale of Napocor's transmission assets in the first quarter of 2002. This will be followed by the sale of the power firm's generation assets, which are expected to fetch about $5 billion.

Psalm will oversee the sale of these assets.

Napocor officials previously said Britain's National Grid Plc., Electricite de France, Electric Development Corp. of Japan and Kyushu Corp. were among the firms that had expressed keen interest in Napocor's transmission assets under the National Transmission Corp., or Transco.

Transco, formerly a part of Napocor, was made independent under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act.

The same law created Psalm, which will completely take over by Dec. 27 all of Napocor's disposable assets and assume its financial obligations by the end of the year.

RP undecided on Asean-China trade bloc

THE PHILIPPINES remains undecided on whether it will be beneficial for the country to endorse a proposal to include China in the Asean Free Trade Area, which will create the world's largest free-trade zone.

A senior official of the Department of Trade and Industry said the government would undertake a year-long study to determine whether Philippine-made goods could compete with China's merchandise in an open market.

The trade official said the Philippines took a cautious stance on the Asean-China trading block on concerns that Chinese goods could easily swamp the country.

He said Malaysia and Indonesia expressed reservations over the plan because China had too much advantage over the 10 member-countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

On Tuesday, Southeast Asian leaders confirmed the world's largest free trade zone with China and began work on a broader bloc taking in Japan and South Korea.

The free trade block could be operating "in five to 10 years," China's Premier Zhu Rongji told reporters after the meeting.

In the consensus-driven Asean, Malaysia's objections to an inflexible free trade agenda and concern about China's growing importance were expected to be barriers to an enlarged trading bloc covering more than 1.8 billion people.

A Philippine trade official clarified that the Asean leaders merely approved a review of the free trade area without making a firm commitment to implement it.

As China stands on the verge of entry to the World Trade Organization, Asean has developed an overriding interest to engage Beijing.

With Asean often criticized as a sunset body unable to take decisive action, the agreement highlighted a new urgency to deal with the intense global uncertainty brought on by the economic downturn and efforts to combat terrorism.

A Japanese government official downplayed the wider proposal, saying, "only three or four countries said it was an issue to be considered but there was no in-depth argument on it."

Japan's Asean focus was to help open up development "corridors" in eastern and western parts of Indochina rather than back a railway linking Southeast Asia to southern China, officials said before Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi met the Asean leaders. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Gov't set to issue $270M worth of Euro bonds

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT is preparing to issue some $270 million worth of Euro bonds this month to raise money for state-run National Power Corp.

"If the Napocor board will approve the borrowing and if the European market is receptive, we may pursue the deal during the road-show," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho told reporters yesterday.

Napocor needs to raise over $530 million this year and $1 billion next year to pay its remaining debts and finance its capital expenses.

The power firm's requirements and the government's $1.3-billion borrowing program bring to $2.3 billion the amount that the Macapagal administration has to raise next year.

A $400-million bond issue set by Napocor to be handled by US investment firm Bear Stearns has already been postponed and may even be shelved completely, forcing the government to extend P15.5 billion worth of advances to Napocor this year.

Camacho said the Bureau of Treasury, in behalf of Napocor, had received several proposals for a Euro bond float.

A person familiar with the matter said Deutsche Bank AG was one of the institutions that sent an offer to handle the transaction.

A ranking finance official said the Euro borrowing might carry a maturity of at least five years.

The national government has decided to borrow in behalf of Napocor so it can get a pricing cheaper by some 15 to 25 basis points than letting the power firm, which has yet to secure a reinsurance, offer its own bonds.

Camacho is set to go on a road-show from Nov. 21 to 24 in London, Frankfurt, Amsterdam and Milan.

"The Napocor board has to make a decision before I leave for the United States next week," he said.

The finance secretary will join President Macapagal-Arroyo during her state visit to the United States on Nov. 14.

Out of the $2.3 billion that it has to raise next year, the government has already secured about $850 million.

The amount will come from a $500-million yen bond float—a "*shibosai*"—next month, a $250-million bond issue to be handled by Credit Suisse First Boston and at least $100 million worth of dollar-denominated treasury bills to be handled by Citibank NA.

If the Euro bond issue will push through this month, the government will only have to raise about $1.2 billion next year.

The options include Napocor's $400-million bond issue and some $800 million in yen and global bond floats to be backed by guarantees from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation and the World Bank.

Sources said proceeds from the $270-million Euro bond issue would be used to cover Napocor's obligations to the government.

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   c) Existing DIGITEL subscribers whose accounts are active/paid up-to-date on the date of the draw.
   d) New subscribers who enrolled in the Make-the-Switch Program** provided that they have used the service for at least a month and are considered in *good credit standing with DIGITEL.
   *Good credit standing means that all the telephone lines under their account number are paid up-to-date and are non-delinquent DIGITEL customers.
   **Zero OTC (one-time charge) and amortized payment plan subscribers qualify in the Grand Raffle Draw only. 50% OTC paid in full qualify for both the monthly and grand raffle draws.
2. The subscriber's account number is the raffle entry. The number of entries is equivalent to the number of phone lines subscribed. The more telephone lines they have means more raffle entries for them and more chances of winning. The account number will be the one to be drawn in the computer.
3. The raffle shall be computer-based wherein all entries are electronically assigned, consolidated and drawn. The raffle entries are assigned as follows:
   New Metered (Choice Plans) = 1 entry
   (except Zero-OTC-Payment Plans***)
   New Non-metered (Millennium Choice) = 2 entries
   (except Zero-OTC-Payment Plans***)
   Existing Subscriber*** = 1 entry
   Make-the-Switch Program = 1 entry
   (Zero OTC and Amortized Payment Plan***)
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4. There will be six (6) monthly draws and a grand draw. The new subscribers have two (2) chances of winning. First, they can win P20,000 in six (6) minor draws per month in DIGITEL areas. Second, they can win P1,000,000 in cash in the Grand Raffle on May 24, 2002. Entries entered within a specified billing cycle will be drawn for that particular monthly draw only and will no longer be included in the succeeding monthly draws. Preliminary draw winners can only win once during the promo period. But they still have the chance to win again in the grand raffle draw.
5. The raffle prizes are as follows:

Monthly Winners	Prize	Number of Months	Total Amount of Prizes
13	P 20,000	6	P 1,560,000

   GRAND RAFFLE: 1 winner of P1,000,000 (Grand Draw: May 24, 2002)
6. Deadlines for applying for phonelines to qualify for the monthly and grand raffle draws are available at the DIGITEL Customer Centers. All bills must be paid within thirty (30) days after the last day of billing cycle.
7. Grand raffle draw will be held on May 24, 2002 at 2:00 pm at DIGITEL Head Office at 110 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, Quezon City in the presence of a. DTI representative.
8. Winners of raffle prizes will be informed via telegram or phone and registered mail. Winners shall also be published in Philippine Daily Inquirer, People's Tonight and posters inside Customer Centers and be announced on radio. Prizes should be claimed within sixty (60) days upon notification. Otherwise, prizes will be forfeited upon approval of DTI.
9. All prizes are tax-free and are non-transferable.
10. The prizes may be claimed at any Equitable/PCI Bank branch. To claim the prize, winners must first go to the DIGITEL Customer Center in their area specified in the registered notice and present the registered mail or telegram, the LATEST PAID billing statement, and at least one (1) valid identification card with photo and signature. The Customer Center will issue an authorization or certification to claim or withdraw the prize money.
11. The accounts must be in good credit standing* before the winners can claim their prizes. In a multiple telephone line account, if any of the telephone lines become delinquent, the whole account becomes delinquent. Thus, each line per account must be updated and currently paid.
12. DIGITEL employees, their advertising agencies as well as relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo. Also excluded are accounts falling under DOTC owned lines managed by DIGITEL, telephone company offices, regional telephone development project, government, and JG Summit.
13. The decision of the promotion organizer is final with the concurrence of DTI.

PROMO PERIOD: November 1, 2001 to April 14, 2002

See posters for more details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1733 Series of 2001

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

First Union International division opens new office in Cebu

FIRST Union National Bank in Manila is pleased to announced the opening of an extension office in Cebu. This office will offer a variety of products and services and further emphasizes First Union's commitment to the Philippines.

"The Philippines continues to be an important market for First Union. We've made a strategic decision to dedicate additional resources to the Philippines and to expand our presence there," said Michael Heavener, executive vice president and head of First Union's International division. "We'll be adding resources in both Manila and Cebu, which we believe is an increasingly important region for the country. Given my personal history in the Philippines, I'm particularly pleased about our new initiatives there."

First Union has had a presence in the Philippines since 1976 and has served the major banks throughout the country. Today, First Union works with all the major banks in the Philippines as well as foreign branches.

First Union's International division has more than 3,000 correspondent bank relationships in over 130 countries. The division's global network encompasses 32 representative offices, five international processing centers located domestically and six branches worldwide. In addition to correspondent banking, global trade services and trade services outsourcing, First Union also provides embassy banking and international corporate banking. First Union's International division works with the company's Global Capital Markets, Global Capital Management and Global Cash Management divisions to services customers worldwide.

First Union (NYSE:FTU), with $246 billion in assets and stockholders' equity of $16 billion at June 30, is a leading provider of financial services to 15 million retail and corporate customers throughout the East Coast of the nation. The company operates full-service banking offices in 11 East Coast states and Washington, D.C. and full-service brokerage offices in 47 states and international offices worldwide. Online banking products and services can be accessed through www.firstunion.com.

First Union Corp. and Wachovia Corp. has merged to form the fourth largest US bank holding company based on assets. This new company, to be called Wachovia, will have $322 billion in assets and serve over 19 million retail and corporate customers.

AUTOMATIC CENTRE, BLIMS FORMALLY OPEN AT AYALA

Automatic Center and Blims Fine Furniture, the country's pioneer in appliance and furniture retailing, formally opens its showroom at the country's premier business district along Ayala and Herrera Streets. The Ayala branch introduces the concept of a combined corporate showroom and a customer training center, the first of its kind in the industry. It will be a showcase of the latest and 'you saw it first' in appliance technology and furniture products and services. It will also provide the venue for educational events such as training and seminars, product launches and orientation programs. Guests at the opening were led by (from left) Irene Chua, executive vice president, Automatic Centre; Marivic Anonuevo, vice president, sales and marketing, Ayala Land; Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr.; Don Benito Lim; Frederick Dy, chair, Security Bank Corp., and Jesus Francisco, president/COO, Manila Electric Company.

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PRE-NEED LEADER SIGNS IN

CAP Philippines Inc., the country's leader in pre-need plans, will be one of the sponsors of the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress organized by the Advertising Board of the Philippines, hosted by the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) slated from Nov. 21 to 24 at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City. Shown during the contract signing were (seated, from left) Congress overall chair Noy Dy-Liacco, CAP vice president Marissa N. Dames and finance director Jun Alcantara. Standing (from left) were ways and means chair Gil Chua and Pana executive director Dr. Nonie S. Azarcon.

NOKIA AWARDS ARTISTS

Nokia Philippines Inc. recently hosted the Nokia Arts Awards (NAA) Asia Pacific regional exhibit at the Bulawagang Juan Luna, Main Gallery of the CCP. Bearing the theme 'Playground of Your Imagination', the exhibit showcased last year's top awardee, Rodel Garcia of the University of the Philippines with his 'Deconstruction' painting along with the rest of the regional entries. Shown (from left) are Sid Gomez Hildawa, Cultural Center of the Philippines' director for visual arts, professor Jose Endriga, vice president, public affairs, University of the Philippines; Ruben Cañete, president, Art Association of the Philippines and one of the judges of the 2nd Nokia Arts Awards Regional Competition held in Seoul, Korea and National Artist Dean Napoleon Abueva.

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MOOSE GEAR, WORLDS OF FUN PROMO TIE-UP

Moose Gear, the leading kids' apparel, and Worlds of Fun recently entered into a tie-up for the launching of the 'Gear Up and Have Fun' promo. Every P300 minimum purchase of Moose Gear items at the Children's and Infant's Wear of SM Department entitles customers to a free game coupon at the Worlds of Fun. One coupon is equivalent to two tokens that can be used for any video game or kiddie ride at any Worlds of Fun outlet nationwide. Shown during the signing are (seated from left) Diana Ty, Moose Gear marketing manager and Eunice Gonzalez, Worlds of Fun business development group and marketing manager. Also shown are (from left) Monett Camba, Worlds of Fun marketing specialist; Moose Gear boys Eisenlois Bayubay, Mark Wilson and Goyong and Marichell Tan of Press, Inc., Moose Gear's PR firm.

Pfizer inaugurates UP-PGH virtual library and fitness center

PFIZER, in line with its commitment to serve its partners in the medical community, has put up a virtual library at the UP-PGH, Manila to help doctors, medical practitioners and students conduct medical research by giving them free access to the Internet.

"Pfizer's primary goal is to meet the needs of its customers and the community by focusing on customers' satisfaction and providing opportunities for learning. We believe that this worthy project will help us realize that goal," said Pfizer country manager and president in the Philippines Rey Gerardo E. Bacarro, during the ribbon-cutting ceremony held at the Director's Conference Room in PGH.

The virtual library will allow users to gather information from medical publications and scientific journals to keep them abreast on medical advancements and scientific developments globally.

Aside from the virtual library in PGH, Pfizer has also put up a virtual library for doctors and medical students of the University of Santo Tomas (UST).

On the other hand, Pfizer has helped put up the PGH Fitness Center by donating gym equipment, audiovisual needs and exercise posters. The center is expected to benefit PGH employees who need to keep not only mentally but also physically fit while doing their stressful medical tasks.

Pfizer is a global, research-based pharmaceutical company that discovers, develops and manufactures innovative medicines for humans and animals. It is a union between Pfizer Inc. and Warner-Lambert, two companies that have defined excellence in healthcare. This year, Pfizer will invest $5 billion for research and development.

BITS Clips

7-Eleven, Trolli Gummi Candy appliance giveaway

WATCH your favorite TV show from your brand new TV set with 7-Eleven and Trolli Gummi candies. Collect empty wrappers of Trolli Gummi candy. Write your name, address, phone number and signature in a piece of paper. Enclose in an envelope together with the Trolli wrapper and drop in designated drop boxes. Prizes include 14" Samsung colored TV sets, National TwinTub washing machines, Sanyo refrigerators and Standard Electric fans. Deadline for submission of entries is on Nov. 9.

UP engineers alumni homecoming

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Alumni Engineers (UPAE) is holding its annual homecoming on Saturday, Nov. 10, 5:30 p.m. at the UP Bahay ng Alumni, Diliman, Quezon City. Highlighting the affair is a gathering of the jubilarian classes of '41, '51' '61 and '76. For more information, call the UPAE secretariat at 920-5301, local 5872, or look for Fortunato de la Pena (homecoming chair) at 920-6923; Val Reyes (UPAE president) at 841-7622 or 0918-9174951; and Rolando Manahan (UPAE secretary) at 434-6322 or 0917-5261959.

Best Taiwan products at technology fair

THE 9TH Taiwan Products & Technology Fair, the trade fair which will showcase the best of Taiwan industries, machinery equipment and products and an array of new features, will be held from Nov. 9 to 12 at the Philippine Trade Training Center on Roxas Boulevard corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Pasay City. The organizer is Taiwan Association, a Philippine-based non-stock, non-profit organization established mainly as a social and civic group of Taiwan nationals in the country. Expovision Trade Services, at the second floor, Veca Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Estrella Street, Makati City is the show manager.

Peace educator to conduct lecture

WORLD renowned UN Ambassador for Peace and noted Peace Educator Dr. Charles Mercieca, Phd. professor emeritus of Alabama A&M University and president of the International Association of Educators for World Peace (IAEWP), a UN NGO World Messenger of Peace, will arrive in Manila to conduct a lecture series on World Peace. Lecture dates are Nov. 11 (Sunday, 2-5 p.m.), Nov. 12 (Monday, 2-5 p.m.), Nov. 13 (Tuesday, 9-12 noon; 2-5 p.m.), and Nov. 14 (Wednesday, 9-12 noon) at the Century Park Hotel, Manila. Interested parties may call the secretariat at 371-7015 to 16.

Largest holiday bazaar

CHRISTMAS gift ideas from A to Z are available at the Rotary Club of Makati West Holiday Bazaar at the Dusit Hotel's Grand Ballroom this Sunday, Nov. 11, from 9 a.m. With over 120 merchants under one roof, this promises to be the largest bazaar in Ayala Center. Merchants will be selling fashion, food, furniture, toys, and other gift ideas. Credit cards will be accepted by most of the merchants, making cashless shopping a breeze. Now on its 7th year, the bazaar will raise funds for the Rotary's community projects. The bazaar is supported by Nokia, BPI Cards and ING Life. For more information, call the secretariat of the Rotary Club of Makati West at 753-3098, or the Dusit Hotel on the opening day at 867-3333.

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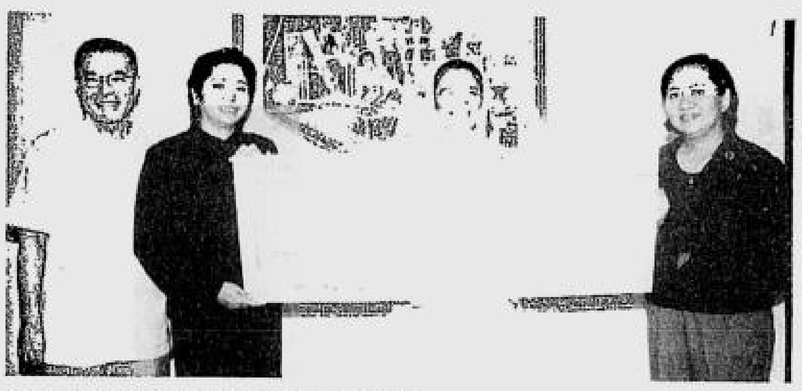
DUMEX TO AWARD INTELLECTUAL PRIZES

Dumex Philippines launches its 'Dumex Search for Fitter and Brighter Champions', an exclusive promotion forged between Dumex and Mercury Drug Corp. The search is open to children 1 to 3 years of age for the toddler category and 3 to 6 years of age for the pre-school category. Exciting intellectual and development prizes await the winners. At the contract signing were (from left) Eugene C. Go, group product manager, Dumex Philippines, Mei Chang Choy, marketing director, Dumex Philippines; Mar Marron, assistant vice president, Mercury Drug Corp. and Tata Albert, national sales manager, Dumex Philippines. See posters in all Mercury Drug branches in Metro Manila including Cavite, Laguna, Rizal and Bulacan.



BANKARD AWARDS CHECK

For being one of the lucky beneficiaries of Bankard's Children Have A Right to Good Education (C.H.A.R.G.E.) Program, a check donation was awarded in simple rights attended by representatives of both Laura Vicuna Foundation and Bankard. C.H.A.R.G.E. is Bankard's annual advocacy program aimed at helping streetchildren acquire education through shared contributions from Bankard and its cardholders. Shown are (from right) Irene D. Taylo, Bankard senior manager; Sr. Juliet B. de Leon, FMA; Meliza Rodriguez, Bankard first senior vice president, and Wilhim Ong, Bankard manager.

THE GENTLEMEN WHO CAN

Acknowledged to be the men who propelled top Asian and global businesses to the top, Dieter R. Klostermann (left) chair of CCA International, the group behind 30 of the world's most prestigious private clubs affiliated with 200 AIC clubs, flank Nóel 'Toti' R. Cariño (center), chair and CEO of the world-class Fairways and Bluewater in Boracay, with Arthur Lopez, president/CEO of CCA Philippines. The gentlemen met to discuss viable prospects and possible future collaborations at Fairways and Bluewater, which recently was adjudged by Interval International as among the short list of world destinations considered to be the best.

Slimmers World events

NEW BALANCE, one of the leading apparel and shoe brands in the country, recently sponsored Slimmers World International's Grand Aerobics Marathon held at the Glorietta Activity Center last Sept. 26. This coming December, New Balance sponsors another major event entitled Great Bodies 2001. Great Bodies 2001 is this year's culminating event of Slimmers World International. A press presentation will be held on Nov. 14 at the Hard Rock Café. Coronation night will be held in Makati Shangri-La Rizal Ballroom on Dec. 21. Full photo coverage is sponsored by Fuji Film.

Double chances of winning with Abenson and Sharp

OWNING brand new cars and the latest appliance showcases are made easy through Abenson and Sharp raffle promotions.

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Moreover, you get a chance to win one of three Toyota Revo SRJ's and other appliance showcases. This promo runs until Dec. 31, 2001. So don't think twice. Move fast and get a chance to win twice.

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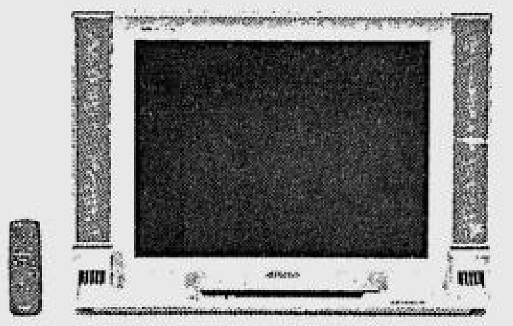

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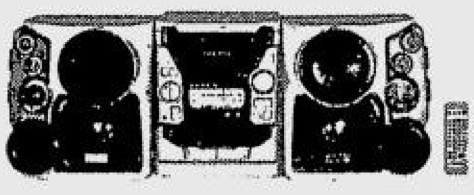

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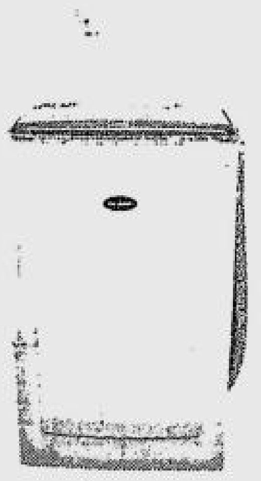

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Leading Pawnshop, Aurora Blvd Cubao, QC. Auction 11 /15/01 8am. All Pawned Item frm Jan-May 2001.

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Bid documents shall be released from November 9-15, 2001 at the Dietary Department, Ground floor, JRRMMC, upon payment of non-refundable fee of P100.00.

Pre-bid conference will be held on November 22, 2001 at the Dietary Department, Ground Floor, JRRMMC, 10:00 AM.

Sealed bids shall be submitted at the Dietary Department Ground Floor, JRRMMC, not later than 10:00 a.m., November 29, 2001, after which time the same shall be publicly opened.

JRRMMC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY BID, WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY OR DEFECT AND ACCEPT ANY BID WHICH IS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

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(PDI--Nov. 8 & 9, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late RODOLFO B. ESTALANO has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc 653 Page 131 Book I Series 2001 of Notary Public Nicomedes R. Martelino Jr of San Juan Metro Manila (PDI-Nov. 9, 16 & 23,2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires maybe. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen. - RCA

**PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)**

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.

Thank you very much.

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EULALIA (Laling) JOVEN BATTAD

of Bacolor, Pampanga and Quezon City

Died in the Grace of the Lord on November 7, 2001
at the age of 77.

Her bereaved husband **Engr. Ernesto J. Battad, Sr.**; children **Alice & Lito Erfe, Agnes, Aida, Jun & Marivic, Tessa & Ding Calderon, Bong, Peachy, Tinette & Ador Mendiola**; grandchildren **Yanie & Lexy, Alen, Crisel, Rael, Ronron, Anna, Gio, Paolo, Ysa, Aly & Andrei**; sister **Betty Santos**; in-laws, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Chapel, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 11, 2001, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

LUZ (SISING) BAGUISI GONONG

of Nampicuan, Nueva Ecija

Peacefully joined our Creator
on November 05, 2001 at the age of 78.

Her remains lie in state at
Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe.
Interment will be on November 11, 2001,
10:00 a.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park,
Marikina.

ANTONIO P. JACINTO

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on November 1, 2001 at the age of 78.

His loving sons **ALFREDO & ANGELITO**; daughter **ADORACION**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul..

His remains lie in state at Prudential Funeral Chapel, 1131 A. Maceda Street, Sampaloc, Manila.

Interment will be tomorrow, November 10, 2001 at the Eternal Garden Memorial Park, Baesa, Quezon City after the 8:00 AM Mass.

**I am
the way,
the truth
and the
life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.**
John 14:6

"Her presence is deeply missed but the memory of her goodness and love is still with us and felt in so many ways."

In loving memory of the 14th Death Anniversary of

LUCILA G. MONTOYA

of Kamuning, Quezon City
who passed away on November 9, 1987.

She is solemnly missed by her beloved husband **VICTOR L. MONTOYA**, her beloved 5 children, 7 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, 2 sons-in-law and 2 daughters-in-law.

Masses will be offered today, November 9, 2001 at the following churches, namely:

Society of the Divine Word (SHP) Sacred Heart of Jesus *Kamuning, Quezon City*	7:00 AM
San Bartolome Parish Church, *Malabon, Rizal*	6:00 AM
Nuestra Señora de Candelaria, *Silang, Cavite*	6:00 AM
Divine Word Mission Seminary, *Christ the King*	6:00 AM
Holy Family Parish, *Kamias, Quezon City*	6:00 AM
Mount Carmel Church, *Doña Rodriguez, Quezon City*	6:00 AM
Immaculate Conception Parish Church, *Cubao, Quezon City*	6:00 AM

THE PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF ALTERNATIVE FUTURES (PIAF)

Its Board of Trustees, Staff, Members and Associates
JOINS WITH FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES
in institutions which were born from his ideas and dreams
and in the movement for sustainable development
IN MOURNING THE LOSS OF ITS
FOUNDER and PRESIDENT

MAXIMO T. KALAW, JR. (JUNIE)

Born May 21, 1939 in Balayan, Batangas
Died November 1, 2001 in New York City

AND EXTENDS ITS SYMPATHIES TO HIS FAMILY

His sister **Erlinda**; his brother **Augusto**;
his sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, all his relatives, and
the many persons whose lives he touched
with his care and compassion.

May we find comfort in knowing that
he now dwells in Wholeness, *Kabuuan,* with his Creator
and the True Weaver of Dreams.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

We remember and pray for the eternal repose of the soul of our dear

ROSALINA A. BAÑARES

September 8, 1950 - November 9, 1997.
on her Fourth Death Anniversary.
Loving children and husband

FE GANADEN MEJICA

Died on November 5, 2001
at the age of 64.

Her body lies in state at the family residence at #124 A. Luna, Project 4, Quezon City until Friday, November 9, 2001.

Interment will be on Wednesday, November 14, 2001, 2:00 p.m. at San Antonio, Zambales.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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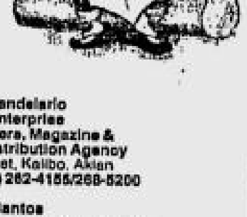

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China set to join WTO, boost global economy

DOHA—After a 15-year struggle to join the World Trade Organization, China's admittance this week is likely to be a welcome for the other 142 members as it is in Beijing.

Uncertainty hangs over the main task of WTO members meeting in the Qatari capital Doha from Nov. 9-13: trying to bridge wide differences and launch an expanded agenda of negotiations to topple trade barriers worldwide.

China offers at least one easy achievement, with its entry to the organization a mere formality since Beijing struck agreements with all the WTO members by offering concessions for its membership.

Television cameras nevertheless will carry the Nov. 10 vote here live into homes across China, press reports say.

For other countries, China's entry into the organization also offers the prospect of a boost to the flagging world economy, which has taken a hit from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

"China in particular is a big enough economy that as it liberalizes it is expected that trade growth will accelerate over the already fairly rapid pace," Brookings Institution analyst Nicholas Lardy told a recent conference in Washington.

"This will be big enough to have an effect on the GDPs (gross domestic products) of lots of countries and even to a limited extent the world," Lardy said.

China, easily the world's most populous nation with 1.3 billion people, had an economic output of $1.08 trillion, exports of $249.2 billion and imports of $225 billion last year.

Besides the economic impact, China's entry will force tighter trade relations across the Taiwan Strait with archrival Taiwan, which Beijing has considered a rebel province since the end of a bitter civil war in 1949.

"It will certainly also be significant eventually in terms of bilateral economic relations across the Straits," Lardy said.

"Taiwan will have to get rid of the prohibitions it now imposes on about half of all its tariff lines on importing products from China," he said, describing it as a move likely to accelerate trade between the two sides.

Despite the restrictions, Taiwan businesses have funneled more than $70 billion into the mainland through overseas channels since Taipei allowed civilian exchanges and indirect commerce between the two sides in late 1987.

Opening up to the rest of the world would pose challenges for China, said Robert Subbaraman, an economist with Lehman Brothers in Tokyo, as its pampered industry faces competition with reduced protective tariffs.

The global slowdown is already eating into China's trade surplus, which plunged 29 percent in the first nine months of this year compared with the same period a year earlier.

AFP

Deflation fears may start rate-slashing spree in Asia

SINGAPORE—The risk of deflation could force Asian central banks to further slash interest rates after the latest round of Federal Reserve-inspired cuts, economists said on Thursday.

Hot on the heels of the Fed's latest 50 basis point rate cut on Tuesday, Hong Kong banks and Taiwan's central bank have snipped their interest rates as well, although more cautiously.

The Philippine central bank joined in on Thursday, slicing off 50 basis points from its overnight rates. Inflation, rather than deflation, has been the problem in the Philippines.

Bank of Korea's monetary board decided earlier in the day not to touch interest rates this month, though analysts predict it will lower its key overnight call rate, now at 4 percent, by at least another 25 basis points soon.

While those Asian central banks that have cut rates this year have primarily done so to boost domestic confidence and economic growth, analysts said in future they might be forced to do so to keep real interest rates low as prices continue to fall.

"We think there is a risk that deflation could spread beyond China and Hong Kong . . . which raises the likelihood of more rate cuts," said Rob Subbaraman, regional economist at Lehman Brothers in Tokyo.

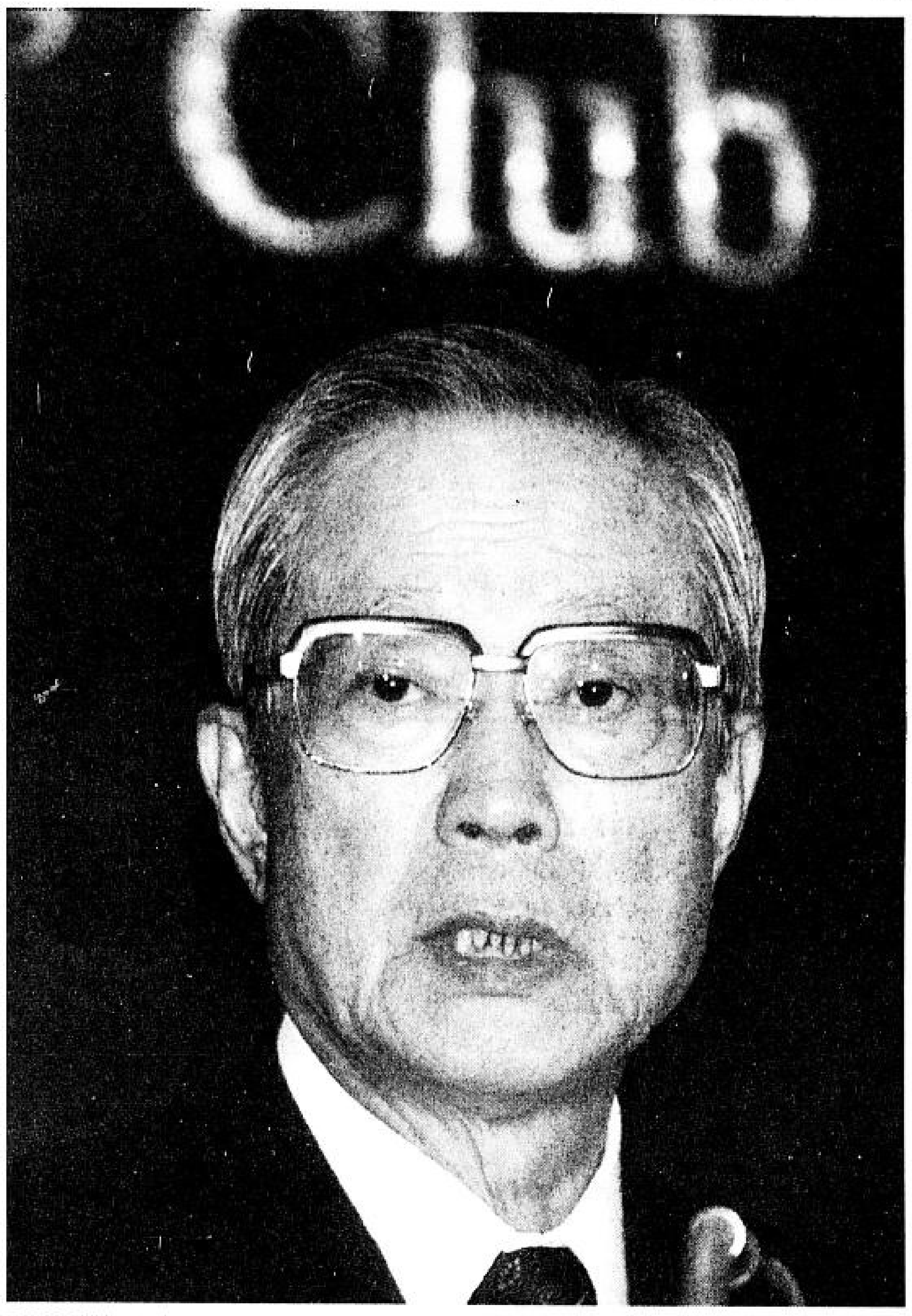
"What central banks tend to focus on is not the nominal interest rates but the real interest rates, or the inflation adjusted interest rates. If inflation continues to decline, that means that just to keep the real interest rates constant, you've got to continue to cut rates," he said.

Recent HSBC research indicates that the spreads between real interest rates in Asia and the United States show more room for easing. For instance, before the latest rate cut, Taiwan's nominal spread over the US stood at 58 basis points, while the real spread was 373 basis points.

But some economists question the conventional wisdom that deflation is rearing its head in Asia, particularly North Asia.

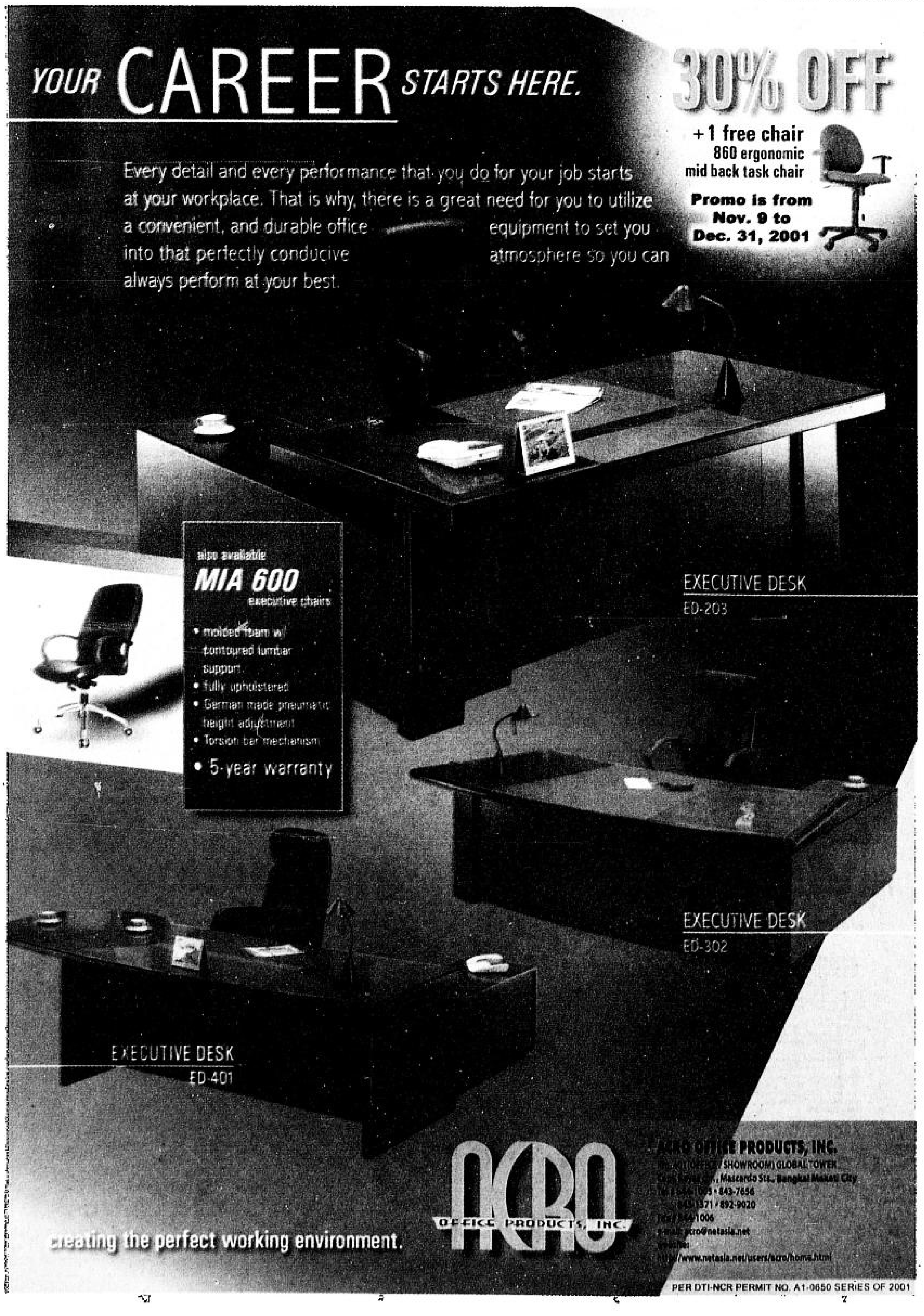
Michael Spencer, head of economic research at Deutsche Bank, argues that deflation in Asia is not merely a structural problem, but also cyclical, meaning it won't be as bad in the long run.

Reuters



TAKASHI Imai, chair of Japan's Federation of Economic Organizations, addresses a press luncheon at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japanin Tokyo, Wednesday.

AP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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. A1-0650 SERIES OF 2001

Argentina to uphold financial commitments

BUENOS AIRES—Argentine President Fernando de la Rua on Wednesday insisted his country would uphold its financial commitments, but failed to convince Wall Street amid predictions of "a destructive default."

Hoping to reassure more than jittery investors, De la Rua also dispatched Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo to New York for private talks with bankers and other key players.

"Argentina is a responsible country that has not declared nor will declare a moratorium on its public debt," De la Rua said, adding that the South American country also remained committed to keeping its currency pegged to the US dollar.

But his comments did little to reassure investors, many of whom remained convinced Argentina would default on its $132-billion debt.

Two rating agencies downgraded Argentina's debt rating, interpreting a debt swap plan announced this week as a veiled move by Buenos Aires to default on its debt.

The government wants to swap existing bonds with average rates of 11 percent for newly issued bonds with a 7-percent interest rate.

Buenos Aires began talks Tuesday with Argentine investors to exchange $60 billion in government bonds held by local investors for those with lower interest rates, backed by tax collections.

Argentina insists that the debt swap, backed by tax incentives, is voluntary and does not constitute a default.

But investors had little faith in Argentina's future.

"The market is clearly expecting at this point a very messy default, one that will be destructive and associated with significant litigation," said Amer Bisat, who manages a $3-billion emerging debt portfolio at Morgan Stanley.

Other speakers at a forum in Washington on the Argentine crisis were equally gloomy.

Francis Freisenger, chief economist for Latin America at Merrill Lynch, said there would be no fresh capital flow to Argentina until the government found a credible way to restart economic growth.

And, the government's "zero deficit" plan, which entails major expenditure cuts, has the opposite effect because it drives Argentina deeper into recession and deflation by discouraging consumer spending, he said.

"We need a positive external shock or something that's going to at least restart capital flows to Argentina," he said.

AFP

Job security, not patriotism, key to more US spending

WASHINGTON—Stephen Brobeck planned to buy a new car some time next year since his daily commute on the pothole-riddled streets of Washington, D.C., had taken a heavy toll on his car.

But last weekend, he went out and bought a car in what he called a patriotic act to help boost the fragile US economy, which most analysts say is in recession.

"I decided . . . why wait? I could afford it, the economy needs it, I might as well just go out and buy it," said 57-year-old Brobeck, who is executive director of the Washington-based Consumer Federation of America.

Since Sept. 11, politicians and companies have been appealing to Americans to patriotically open their wallets and boost dwindling corporate profits and the struggling economy as a whole. Buy that new car and you'll help "keep America rolling," an ad for the Saturn car company goes.

But Brobeck may not be a typical consumer. Americans spend when they feel their jobs and incomes are secure, not when they're told that it's the right thing to do, economists said.

And right now, job security is deteriorating for many US consumers.

"On average, when people are insecure about their livelihoods they will decrease their spending," George Loewenstein, a professor of economics and psychology at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, said. "And that's going to be a much, much bigger determinant than patriotism."

For his part, Washington, D.C., resident Brobeck didn't exactly pump tens of thousands of dollars into the economy. He bought a used Honda Accord that cost less than $10,000. Brobeck said he and his wife never buy new cars, preferring to use their spending money in other ways.

Consumer spending sinks

So far, the data suggest that the pleas for patriotic spending are falling on deaf ears.

US consumer spending plunged 1.8 percent—the biggest drop in more than 14 years—in September to a $7-trillion annual rate.

While some anecdotal evidence has suggested that Americans are trickling back into shopping malls after sitting glued to their television sets in the days immediately following the attacks, some economists expect that consumers will be keeping cash in their pockets for a while amid a weakened job picture.

The labor department said last week the US economy shed 415,000 jobs in October, the biggest monthly decline in more than two decades. The unemployment rate shot up to 5.4 percent in October—the highest level in five years—from 4.9 percent in September.

That data, combined with almost daily announcements from US companies cutting thousands of jobs, are weighing on workers' sense of security.

Reuters

Singapore employers say more drastic pay, staff cuts on the way

SINGAPORE—Singaporean workers, many already receiving shrinking pay packets, can expect more drastic cuts next year as the republic spirals into its deepest recession in more than 30 years, according to a poll published Thursday.

The survey of 174 companies, including multinationals, revealed more than half expect conditions to worsen in the next six months.

Although Singapore employers and unions favor wage cuts to save jobs, an expected 40,000 retrenchments are expected this year and next.

The survey by Singapore-based researcher Remuneration Data Specialists (RDS), conducted in late October, found 18 percent of companies froze wages this year, and 4 percent either cut pay or planned to do so, the Business Times reported.

Another 28 percent of employers planned to freeze wages next year and reduce pay increments from this year's average 3.6 percent to 2.1 percent.

The survey was released on the day port operator PSA Corp. announced wage cuts of 5 percent for lower income earners up to 11 percent for senior management.

It followed other major companies including Singapore Airlines, DBS Bank and stockbroker GK Goh in slashing wages on a sliding scale. At GK Goh, the cuts go as high as 30 percent for senior executives.

"Most companies are cautious and are waiting for year-end results before making drastic cuts," said RDS managing consultant Peter Lee.

He added many were banking on the economy to turn around in the second quarter of 2002 and currently preferred to downsize operations and reduce staff by attrition, instead of retrenching.

"They're paying heed to the government's call to cut wages than cut staff . . . unless the business is not viable anymore, companies are still holding on to their staff," he said.

More than two-thirds of the companies polled will still pay bonuses this year, averaging 1.1 month's salary, although this is expected to be trimmed to 0.8 of a month next year.

Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong last week warned Singaporeans to brace for lower wages, job losses and a fall in living standards as the economy is projected to contract by 3 percent this year compared with last year's 9.9-percent growth. *AFP*

'Embarrassed' Indonesia seeks $3-3.5B in fresh aid

JAKARTA—Indonesia was optimistic that international donors would grant it $3 billion to $3.5 billion in aid on Thursday as one senior official bemoaned the need to "beg" for funds he said might be pilfered.

Kwik Kian Gie, head of the national planning agency and a former chief economics minister, told a meeting of donors in Jakarta the country's huge debt levels had exceeded safe limits.

The typically blunt Kwik also criticized creditors for setting wrong priorities when funding projects across an impoverished nation that was a darling of the donor community for decades until the Asian financial crisis of the late 1990s.

"It is my duty as a government official to present to you our policy and progress on the effective use of foreign aid. On the other hand, I feel totally embarrassed to be confronted with the task to justify an activity which essentially amounts to begging for debt on behalf of our nation," Kwik said in a speech.

"I cannot promise you that some of this new debt will not be corrupted again as it has been in the past," added Kwik, who has Cabinet rank and is close to President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

Indonesia's total foreign debt stands at some $140 billion, the same as its gross domestic product. The planning agency has a key role in coordinating foreign borrowing.

Last week, Megawati warned Indonesians that the country's ability to repay its debts was reaching a dangerous limit.

Earlier on Thursday, Finance Minister Boediono said Indonesia would seek $3 billion to $3.5 billion from the two-day meeting, which closes later on Thursday. Donors are expected to announce their loan pledges for next year about 3 p.m.

Foreign investors and local financial markets are keeping a close eye on the meeting for any sign Jakarta will show resolve in tackling the vested interests opposed to privatization and efforts to eradicate graft that remains endemic.

The World Bank has previously said Jakarta would ask for $3 billion to $4 billion during the meeting of foreign donors, held at a time of growing concern over Indonesia's failure to kickstart economic reform and revive investor confidence.

Optimistic of support

"We are optimistic they will support our target (of $3 billion to $3.5 billion). That is what we want," Boediono told reporters.

Asked if Indonesia wanted more than $4 billion, Boediono added: "We do not need as much as that." *Reuters*

Hong Kong may face record deficit

HONG KONG—Hong Kong Financial Secretary Antony Leung said the territory may be facing a record deficit this fiscal year as the economy slows, the Sing Tao Daily reported on Thursday.

Leung told the newspaper in an interview that the economic outlook for Hong Kong was sure to be "not very good" for the next one or two quarters as the world's major economies face the possibility of sliding into recession.

Leung did not specify a figure for the revenue shortfall, but last month he said he would not rule out a budget deficit as big as HK$100 billion ($12.8 billion) for the current fiscal year.

His spokesman was not immediately available to comment on the newspaper report.

According to government data, the highest deficit on record since the early 1980s was HK$23.24 billion posted in 1998/99 in the aftermath of the Asian financial crisis.

Leung, who became the territory's financial secretary in May, has already begun to think about his first budget for fiscal 2002/03 (April-March), the newspaper said.

He has expressed reservations about tax rebates and cash giveaways despite growing calls from some legislators to ease the pain caused by the slowing economy.

Such measures might not stimulate the economy, the newspaper quoted him as saying.

"There's no shortage of money in Hong Kong as a whole. Bank deposits have been on the rise and bank loans have been falling. If we rebate taxes and give money away, some people estimate that most of that money would be saved up," he was quoted as saying.

Leung also rejected suggestions from some real estate developers that the government suspend land sales to shore up the sagging property market, which was an engine for economic growth in the past. Residential property prices in the territory are 50-60 percent below their 1997 peaks.

Even if the government halted land sales it could not prevent would-be homeowners from crossing the border to mainland China, where property is much cheaper, he noted. *Reuters*

S. Korea growth seen better than expected in Q3

SEOUL—South Korea's economic growth was seen better-than-expected at over 1.0 percent in the three months to September, the country's central bank chief said Thursday.

Bank of Korea (BoK) governor Chon Chol-Hwan said the central bank expected gross domestic product (GDP) growth to rebound to about 2.0 percent in the fourth quarter this year and post 3.0 percent next year.

"Third quarter GDP is likely to come in at more than 1.0 percent due to stronger-than-expected September output," Chon told journalists.

Last month, the BoK forecast a 0.5-percent growth rate for the three months to September. The bank has yet to issue its official quarterly GDP growth figure.

Chon said it was "still too early to confirm that industrial output improvements will be sustainable" as the country was heavily dependent on the global economy which has fallen into a slump.

South Korea's GDP growth has continued slowing with 3.7 percent in the first quarter and 2.7 percent in the second quarter this year.

The BoK governor said he expected the GDP to grow about 2 percent in the three months to December this year.

He said the central bank also expected the economy to grow about 3 percent in 2002, lower than the 5.5 percent projected by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in August.

The BoK decided Thursday to keep its key interest rate unchanged at 4.0 percent for November, despite the global move to cut the rates to help boost the economy.

The governor said the country needed time to look into the effects of the earlier rate cuts on the economy, which he said were not fully factored in. *AFP*

US tire firms to pay $41.5M

WASHINGTON—Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. will pay $41.5 million in a settlement to head off lawsuits by states over defective tires the company recalled more than a year ago.

Each of the 50 United States, three District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands will get $500,000, according to a copy of the settlement obtained by The Associated Press. There are no restrictions on how the money can be spent.

Nashville, Tennessee-based Bridgestone/Firestone will spend $5 million on a consumer education campaign and $10 million to reimburse attorneys' fees for the states. The deal could also include up to $10 million in administrative costs.

Bridgestone/Firestone announced a recall of 6.5 million ATX, ATX II and Wilderness AT tires on Aug. 9, 2000, after receiving reports that some tires had suddenly failed. Since then, US investigators have documented 271 deaths from thousands of accidents involving the tires.

Many of the accidents involved rollovers of the Ford Explorer, the world's best-selling sport utility vehicle. The Wilderness AT tires came as standard equipment.

Attorneys general have been investigating whether Bridgestone/Firestone and Ford were aware of problems with the tires long before the recall was announced. The settlement heads off lawsuits that could have resulted from the investigation, led by Tennessee Attorney General Paul Summers.

Summers was expected to announce the settlement Thursday in Nashville.

Bridgestone/Firestone would not comment on the settlement Wednesday.

The settlement will not end the investigation into Ford by the attorneys general, the sources said. Messages left Wednesday were not immediately returned by Ford officials.

The federal government closed its investigation last month after Bridgestone/Firestone agreed to recall 3.5 million more Wilderness ATs.

Federal investigators found the design of the Wilderness AT and the ATX produced before May 1998 could cause higher stress at the edge of the steel belt and lead to a separation. *AP*

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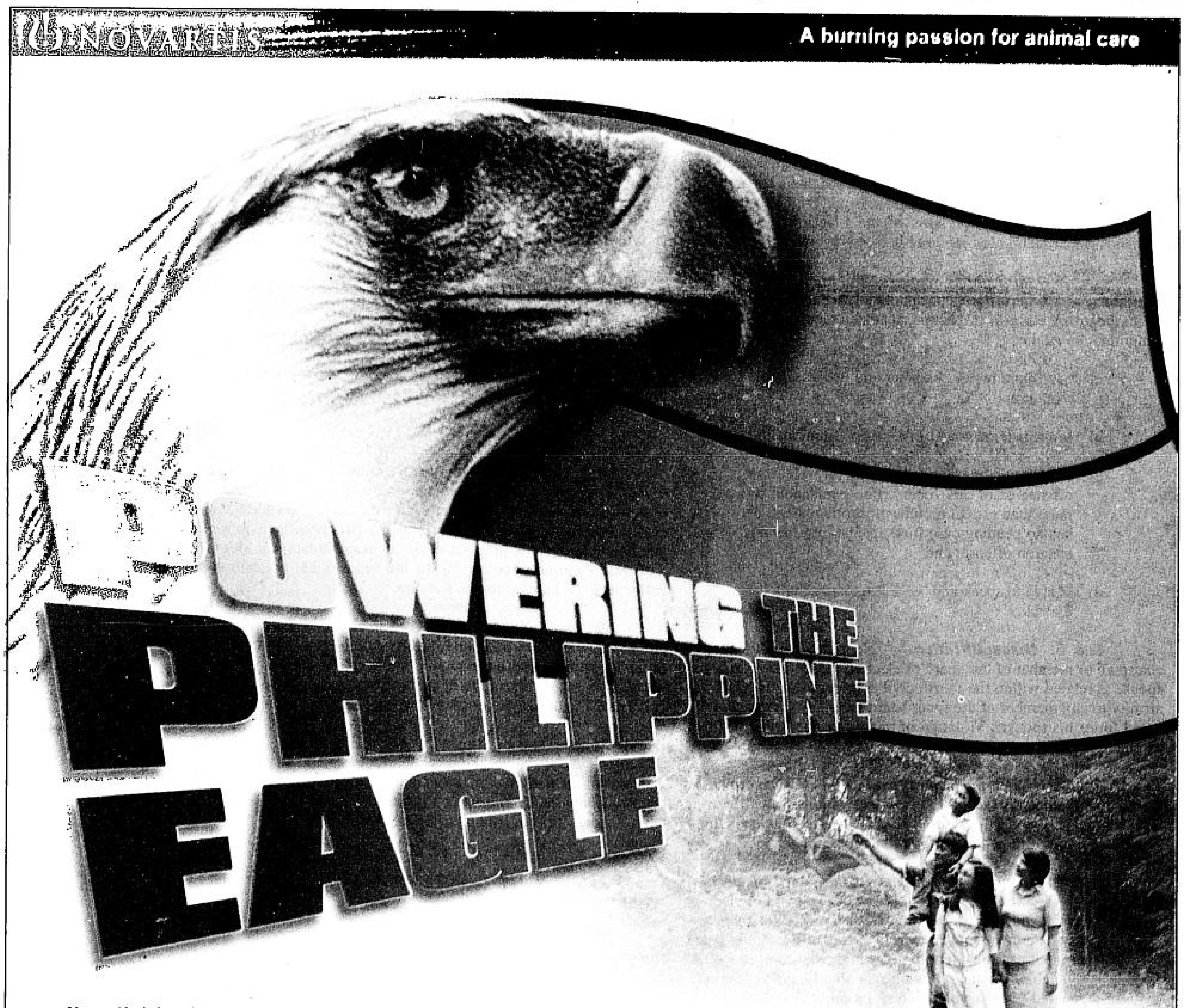

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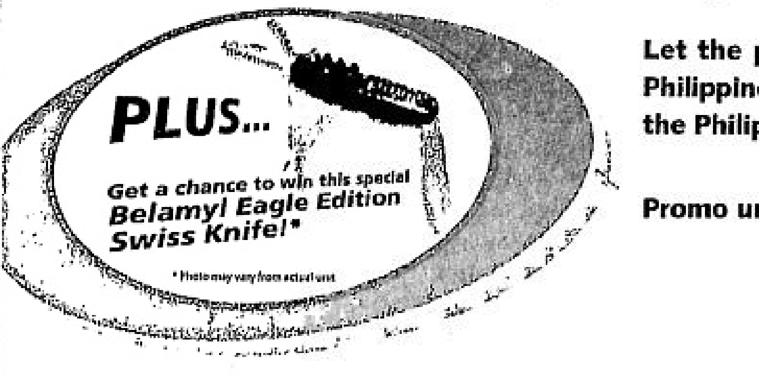
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Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE BOARDS OF ELECTION INSPECTORS ON THE CASTING AND COUNTING OF VOTES FOR THE NOVEMBER 26, 2001 ELECTIONS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO.

PRESENT:	
BENIPAYO, Alfredo L.,	Chairman
TANCANGCO, Luzviminda G.,	Commissioner
LANTION, Ralph C.,	Commissioner
JAVIER, Rufino S.B.,	Commissioner
SADAIN, Mehol K.,	Commissioner
BORRA, Resurreccion Z.,	Commissioner
TUASON, Florentino Jr. A.,	Commissioner

Promulgated: 6 November 2001

RESOLUTION NO. 4612

The Commission on Elections, pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, and other election laws, RESOLVED to promulgate, as it hereby promulgates, the following General Instructions for the Boards of Election Inspectors on the casting and counting of votes in the November 26, 2001 elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao:

Article I – BOARD OF ELECTION INSPECTORS

SECTION 1. ***Board of election inspectors; constitution and appointment.*** — The Commission on Elections, through its Election Officer, shall constitute a board of election inspectors for each precinct or group of precincts from the list of teachers recommended by the Department of Education for appointment.

The board of election inspectors shall be composed of a chairman and two members, all of whom shall be public school teachers, giving preference to those with permanent appointment. One of the members shall be designated as poll clerk.

In case there are not enough public school teachers, teachers in private schools, employees in the civil service, or citizens of known probity and competence who are registered voters of the city or municipality may be appointed for election duty; provided that the chairman shall be a public school teacher.

It shall be the duty of the Election Officer to submit the specimen signatures and imprints of all fingers of those appointed as members of the board of election inspectors and their substitutes to the Voters Identification Division of the Election Records and Statistics Department, Manila, on or before November 15, 2001.

SEC. 2. ***Qualifications of members of the board of election inspectors.*** — No person shall be appointed as chairman or member of the board of election inspectors, whether regular, substitute or temporary, unless he:

a) Is of good moral character and irreproachable reputation;

b) Is a registered voter of the city or municipality;

c) Has never been convicted of any election offense or of any other crime punishable by more than six (6) months of imprisonment, or has no pending case filed against him for any election offense; and

d) Is able to speak and write English or the local dialect.

SEC. 3. ***Disqualification.*** — No person shall serve as chairman or member of the board of election inspectors if he or his spouse is related within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to any member of the same board or to any candidate to be voted for or his spouse. Violation of this provision shall constitute an election offense.

SEC. 4. ***Notice of disqualification.*** — Any chairman or member of the board of election inspectors who is disqualified for any reason, shall notify the Election Officer of such fact in writing, who shall, in turn, immediately appoint a replacement.

SEC. 5. ***Temporary vacancies in the board of election inspectors.*** — If, at the time of the meeting of the board of election inspectors, any member is absent or a vacancy exists, the members present shall call upon the substitute from the roll of substitutes listed by the Department of Education, to perform the duties of the latter. If none is available, the members present shall appoint any non-partisan registered voter of the precinct not otherwise disqualified, to temporarily fill said vacancy until the absent member appears or the vacancy is filled. In case there are two members present, they shall act jointly.

SEC. 6. ***Arrest of absent members.*** — The member or members of the board of election inspectors present may order the arrest of any member who, in his or their judgment, has absented himself with the intention of obstructing the performance of the duties of the board.

SEC. 7. ***Oath of members of the board of election inspectors.*** — Before assuming office, the members of the board of election inspectors shall take an oath before the Election Officer, and sign the oath in the form prescribed by the Commission. The Election Officer shall keep a copy of the oath.

SEC. 8. ***Powers and functions of the board of election inspectors.*** — The board of election inspectors shall have the following powers and functions:

a) Conduct the voting and counting of votes in the polling place;

b) Act as deputies of the Commission in the supervision and control of the election in the polling place where it is assigned;

c) Maintain order within the polling place and its premises; keep access thereto open and unobstructed; and enforce obedience to its lawful orders. If any person refuses to obey the lawful orders of the board of election inspectors or conducts himself in a disorderly manner in its presence or within its hearing and thereby interrupts or disturbs its proceedings, the board of election inspectors may issue an order in writing directing any peace officer to take such person into custody until the adjournment of the meeting, but such order shall not be executed as to prevent such person from voting; and

d) Perform such other functions prescribed by law or by the rules and regulations promulgated by the Commission.

SEC. 9. ***Proceedings of the board of election inspectors.*** — The meeting of the board of election inspectors shall be public and held in the polling place designated by the Commission.

The board of election inspectors shall act through its chairman and shall decide by majority vote, without delay, all questions, which may arise in the performance of its duties.

SEC. 10. ***Minutes of voting and counting of votes.*** — The board of election inspectors shall accomplish the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes as the act or data therein required occur or become available during voting and counting of votes. Copies thereof shall be sealed in separate envelopes, to be distributed as follows:

a) The first copy, to the Election Officer who shall transmit it to the Election Records and Statistics Department in Manila; and

b) The second copy, to be deposited inside the compartment of the ballot box for valid ballots.

SEC. 11. ***Voting privilege of the members of board of election inspectors.*** — Members of the board of election inspectors and their substitutes may vote in the polling place where they are assigned on election day provided that:

a) They are registered voters of the same legislative district where they are assigned; and

b) Their voting in the polling place where they are not registered should be noted in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes.

SEC. 12. ***Prohibition against political activity.*** — No member of the board of election inspectors shall engage in any partisan political activity or take part in the election except to discharge his duties as such and to vote.

SEC. 13. ***Per diem of the board of election inspectors.*** — The members of the board of election inspectors shall each receive a *per diem* of nine hundred pesos (P900.00) for their services. Provincial, city and municipal treasurers, administrators and supervisors of the Department of Education, assigned by the Commission to perform election duty shall be paid a *per diem* of nine hundred pesos (P900.00) each. Support personnel from the Department of Education who may be required by the Commission to perform election duties shall each be entitled to a *per diem* of two hundred pesos (P200.00). There shall be one supervisor for every ten (10) precincts as clustered and one (1) support personnel for every polling place.

Article II – WATCHERS

SEC. 14. ***Official watchers of candidates, political parties and other groups.*** — Each candidate and political party or coalition of political parties duly registered with the Commission and fielding candidates in the election may appoint two watchers, to serve alternately, in every polling place. However, candidates for Member, Regional Assembly, belonging to the same ticket or slate shall collectively be entitled to one watcher.

Duly accredited citizens arms of the Commission shall be entitled to appoint a watcher in every polling place. Other civic, religious, professional, business, service, youth, and any other similar organizations, with prior authority of the Commission, shall be entitled collectively to appoint one watcher in every polling place.

If, because of limited space, all watchers cannot be accommodated in the polling place, preference shall be given to the watchers of the dominant majority and dominant minority parties as determined by the Commission and the watcher of the citizens arm, with the latter being given preferential position closest to the board of election inspectors.

SEC. 15. ***Qualifications of watchers.*** — No person shall be appointed watcher unless he:

a) is a registered voter of the city or municipality comprising the precinct where he is assigned;

b) is of good reputation;

c) has not been convicted by final judgment of any election offense or of any other crime;

d) knows how to read and write Pilipino, English or any of the prevailing local dialect; and

e) is not related within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to the chairman or any member of the board of election inspectors in the polling place where he seeks appointment as watcher.

SEC. 16. ***Rights and duties of watchers.*** — Upon entering the polling place, the watchers shall deliver to the chairman of the board of election inspectors their appointments as watchers and their names shall forthwith be recorded in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes with a notation under their signatures that they are not disqualified to serve as such under the immediately preceding Section. The appointments of the watchers shall bear the signature of the candidate or duly authorized representative of the party, organization or coalition that appointed them. For this purpose, at least fifteen (15) days before election day, independent candidates, registered parties, organizations or coalitions authorized by the Commission to appoint watchers shall provide the Election Officers concerned with the names and signatures of their representatives authorized to appoint watchers in the city or municipality.

The watchers shall have the right to:

a) witness and inform themselves of the proceedings of the board of election inspectors;

b) take note of what they may see or hear;

c) take photographs of the proceedings and incidents, if any, during the counting of votes, as well as of the election returns, tally board and ballot boxes;

d) file a protest against any irregularity or violation of law which they believe may have been committed by the board of election inspectors or by any of its members or by any person;

e) obtain from the board of election inspectors a certificate as to the filing of such protest and/or of the resolution thereon;

f) read the ballot after it shall have been read by the chairman, as well as the election returns after it shall have been completed and signed by the members of the board of election inspectors, without touching said election documents; and

g) be furnished, upon request, with a certificate of votes cast for the candidates, duly signed and thumbmarked by the chairman and all members of the board of election inspectors.

Watchers shall not speak to any member of the board of election inspectors, or to any voter, or among themselves, in such a manner as would disturb the proceedings of the board.

The watchers representing the dominant majority and dominant minority parties fielding candidates shall, if available, affix their signatures and thumbmarks in the Election Returns.

Article III – ELECTION FORMS AND SUPPLIES

SEC. 17. ***Election forms, documents and supplies.*** — Except when authorized to do so earlier by the Commission, the board of election inspectors shall get the forms, documents and supplies early in the morning of election day. The following forms, documents and supplies shall be allocated and distributed by precinct by the city/ municipal treasurer and the Election Officer.

A. FROM CITY/MUNICIPAL TREASURER

CEF No.	Forms and Supplies	Rate of Distribution
3	Poster Indicating Precinct Number and Location of Polling Place	1 piece
4	Certified list of Candidates for Regional Governor, Regional Vice-Governor and Regional Assemblyman	12 copies
6	Official Ballots	1 ballot per registered voter plus 3 ballots for every precinct or clustered precincts
7	Sample Official Ballots	10 pieces
9	Election Returns	1 set of 7 copies
10	Tally Board	1 set
11	Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes	1 set of 2 copies
12	Paper Seal	25 pieces
13	Certificate of Votes Received by Candidates to be issued by BEI	20 copies
14	Certificate of Receipt of Official Ballots, Other Forms and Supplies	3 pieces
27, 27-A to 27-F	Official Receipt of Election Returns	10 pieces
	ENVELOPES FOR:	
15, 16, 16-A to 16-D, 28	Counted Official Ballots, Excess, Marked, Spoiled, Half of Torn Unused Official Ballots, Other Half of Torn Unused Official Ballots, and Official Ballots	7 pieces
17, 17-B to 17-G	Election Returns	1 set 7 pieces
18 and 18-A	Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes	2 pieces
19, 19-A and 19-B	Keys to Ballot Box	3 pieces
	OTHER FORMS	
30	Temporary Appointment of Chairman, Poll Clerk, Members	10 pieces
35	Certificate of Challenge or Protest and Decision of the Board	10 pieces
39	Oath of Voter Challenged for Illegal Acts	10 pieces
40	Oath of Identification of Challenged Voter	10 pieces
41	Summons re: Challenged Voter	10 pieces
	General Instructions for BEI on Election Day	3 copies
	SUPPLIES	
	Ballot Secrecy Folder	10 pieces
	Rubber Band	6 pieces
	Ballpoint pen	13 pieces
	Thumbprint Taker	2 pieces
	Bond paper	30 sheets
	Padlocks with Keys	3 pieces
	Fixed-length seals	2 pieces
	Indelible Stain Ink	2 bottles
	Ballot Box	1 piece
	String	26 feet

B. FROM THE ELECTION OFFICER

1. Book of Voters;
2. Two (2) copies of CVL Report 1-B (List of Voters);
3. One (1) copy of CVL Form 2 (List of Voters with Voting Record); and
4. Two (2) copies of List of Deactivated Voters.
5. Nine pieces of Appointment and Oath of Office of BEI (CEF No. 5 & 5 A).
6. Election Watcher's ID at two (2) pieces per precinct per candidate/Political Party.

The Book of Voters should be duly sealed. The CVL Report 1-B, CVL Form 2 and the List of Deactivated Voters should all be duly certified by the Election Registration Board.

The chairman of the board of election inspectors shall have custody of the Book of Voters and one (1) copy of CVL Report 1-B.

The poll clerk shall have custody of the CVL Form 2 and one (1) copy of the List of Deactivated Voters.

The board of election inspectors shall carefully check the different election forms, documents and supplies and the quantity actually received, and deposit them in the ballot box, which shall thereafter be locked with three padlocks. Each member of the board of election inspectors shall keep in his custody one key corresponding to one of the padlocks. The board of election inspectors shall sign a Certificate of Receipt (CE Form No. 14) in three copies, the original copy of which shall be delivered to the city/municipal treasurer, the second copy to be retained by the board of election inspectors, and the third copy to the Election Officer, who shall transmit said receipts to the Records and Statistics Division, ERSD, Comelec, Manila, immediately after election day.

SEC. 18. *Official ballots*. - The official ballot shall:

a) be uniform in size, printed in black ink on white security paper with distinctive, clear and legible water marks that will readily distinguish it from ordinary paper;

b) be with stubs and detachable coupons containing the serial number of the ballot with space for the thumbmark of the voter on the detachable coupon;

c) bear at the top of the middle portion thereof, the coat-of-arms of the Republic of the Philippines, the words "Official Ballot", the name of the city or the municipality and province in which the election is to be held, the date of the election and the following notice in English: "Fill out this ballot secretly using a ballot secrecy folder. Do not put any distinctive mark on any part of this ballot.";

d) contain the names of all the offices to be voted for in the election allowing sufficient space or spaces with horizontal line where the voter may write the name or names of the individual candidates voted for by him. In cities or municipalities where Arabic is of general use, the title of the offices to be voted for shall be printed in Arabic in addition to the English title; and

e) not have anything printed or written on the back thereof except as provided in Sec. 27 hereof; and

SEC. 19. *Forms to be reproduced when needed*. – Samples of the following forms are attached hereto to guide the board of election inspectors in the replication thereof when the need arises:

a) Temporary appointment of Chairman/Poll Clerk/ Member (Annex "A");

b) Certificate of Challenge or Protest and Decision of the Board (Annex "B");

c) Oath of Voter Challenged for Illegal Acts (Annex "C");

d) Oath of Identification of Challenged Voter (Annex "D"); and

e) Summons Re: Challenged Voter (Annex "E")

Article IV – CASTING OF VOTES

SEC. 20. *Date of election*. - The election shall be held on November 26, 2001.

SEC. 21. *Who may vote*. – All registered voters as of the August 14, 2001 plebiscite to ratify the amendments to the Organic Act of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao whose registration records have not been cancelled or deactivated, may vote in the elections.

However, those included in the CVL without the corresponding VRR in the Book of Voters will NOT be allowed to vote.

SEC. 22. *Voting hours*. — The casting of votes shall start promptly at seven o'clock in the morning and shall end at three o'clock in the afternoon of election day.

If at three o'clock there are still voters within thirty meters in front of the polling place who have not yet cast their votes, the voting shall continue but only to allow said voters to cast their votes without interruption. The poll clerk shall, without delay, prepare a complete list containing the names of said voters consecutively numbered. The voters listed shall be called to vote by the poll clerk by announcing each name three times in the order in which they are listed. Any voter in the list who is not present when called shall not be permitted to vote at any later time. The said list shall be submitted to the Election Officer.

SEC. 23. *Place of voting*. — The voters shall cast their votes in the polling place designated by the Commission for the precinct in the August 14, 2001 ARMM plebiscite. The poster indicating the precinct number and location of polling place (CEF No. 3) shall be prominently posted near or at the door of the polling place.

SEC. 24. *Rules to be observed during the voting*. -During the voting, the board of election inspectors shall see to it that:

a) No watcher enters the place reserved for the voters and the board of election inspectors or mingles and talks with the voters;

b) No voter prepares his ballot without using a ballot secrecy folder, or exhibits the contents of the ballot to any person;

c) No ballot is brought outside the polling place;

d) No person carrying any firearm or any other deadly weapon, except those expressly authorized by the Commission, enters the polling place;

e) The voters shall vote in the order of their arrival in the polling place;

f) There is no crowding of voters and disorderly behavior inside the polling place; and

g) The interior cover of the ballot box remains locked during voting.

SEC. 25. *Persons allowed in and around the polling place*. — Only the following shall be allowed inside the polling place:

a) Members of the board of election inspectors;

b) Watchers who shall stay only in the space reserved for them;

c) Representatives of the Commission;

d) Voters casting their votes;

e) Voters waiting for their turn to vote;

f) Voters waiting for their turn to get their ballots; and

g) Others who may be specifically authorized by the Commission.

Unless specifically authorized by the Commission, it is unlawful for any officer or member of the Armed Forces of the Philippines or the Philippine National Police or any peace officer or armed person belonging to any extra-legal police agency, special forces, reaction forces, strike forces, Civilian Armed Force Geographical Units, *barangay tanods*, or other similar forces or para-military forces, including special forces, security guards, special policemen, and all other kinds of armed or unarmed extra-legal police forces, to enter any polling place or stay within a radius of fifty (50) meters thereof, except to vote.

However, the board of election inspectors, by majority vote, if it deems necessary, may order in writing the detail of a policeman or any peace officer for its protection or for the protection of the election documents and paraphernalia. Such order shall be entered in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes. Said policeman or peace officer shall stay outside the polling place within a radius of thirty (30) meters near enough to be easily called by the board of election inspectors at anytime, but never at the door, and in no case shall the said policeman or peace officer hold any conversation with any voter or disturb or prevent or in any manner obstruct the free access of the voters to the polling place.

No *barangay* official shall enter any polling place except to vote, in which case, he shall immediately leave the polling place after voting.

SEC. 26. *Preliminaries to the voting*. — The board of election inspectors shall meet at the polling place at six o'clock in the morning of election day and do the following:

a) See to it that it has all the election forms, documents and supplies needed;

b) Post one copy of CVL Report 1-B and the List of Deactivated Voters near or at the door of the polling place; and

c) Staple or paste the certified list of candidates on the ballot secrecy folders.

Before the voting begins, the chairman of the board of election inspectors shall:

a) Open the ballot box, empty both of its compartments, exhibit them to all those present and, being empty, lock its interior cover with three (3) padlocks. The members of the board of election inspectors shall each retain their respective keys to the padlocks during the voting; and

b) Show to the public and to the watchers present, the package of official ballots and the book of voters, both duly sealed, and thereafter, break the seals;

c) Enter in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes: 1) the number of pads of ballots; 2) the serial numbers of the ballots in each pad; and 3) the fact that the package of ballots and the book of voters were shown to the public with the seals intact.

SEC. 27. *Manner of obtaining ballots*. — The voter shall approach the chairman, give his name, address, together with the other data concerning his person, and present any authentic document that may establish his identity.

The chairman shall check whether or not: a) the name of the voter is included in the list of voters; or 2) the voter's Voter Registration Record is contained in the Book of Voters of the precinct. If the voter's name is in the list or if his Voter Registration Record is included in the Book of Voters, the chairman shall examine the identification document presented by the voter, to determine whether the voter is the same person presenting himself as the voter.

If the voter fails to present any authentic document to establish his identity, he may be identified under oath by any member of the board of election inspectors and such identification shall be reflected in the Minutes of Voting and Counting;

In all cases, the voter shall be required to affix his signature on a separate sheet of paper. Afterwhich, the chairman shall then compare the signature with that appearing in the voter's registration record. In case the registration record of the voter is not available, the chairman shall compare the signature with that appearing in the identification document presented by the voter .

If the board of election inspectors is satisfied with the voter's identity, the chairman shall distinctly announce the voter's name in a tone loud enough to be plainly heard throughout the polling place. If the voter is not challenged, or having been challenged, the question has been decided in his favor, the voter shall be given a ballot.

Only the chairman shall issue the official ballots, and not more than one ballot shall be issued at one time.

Before giving the ballot to the voter, the chairman shall:

a) Apply indelible ink at the base and extending to the cuticle of the right forefinger nail of the voter, or any other finger nail if there be no right forefinger;

A voter, who for any reason refuses to be stained with the indelible ink, or whose finger already shows stain of indelible ink, shall not be given a ballot. Such fact shall be entered in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes.

b) Announce the serial number of the ballot and enter the same in the corresponding space in the CVL Form 2 and at the back of the voter's voter registration record;

c) Authenticate the ballot by affixing his signature at the back thereof. Failure to authenticate shall be noted in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes and shall constitute an election offense; and

d) Fold the ballot in such a manner that its face, except the portion where the serial number appear, is covered, and give the same to the voter.

SEC. 28. *Manner of voting*. — Upon receipt of the ballot, the voter shall forthwith affix his signature in the proper space at the back of his voter registration record.

Using a ballot secrecy folder, he shall fill his ballot by writing the names of the individual candidates of his choice.

It shall be unlawful to use carbon paper, paraffin paper or other means for making a copy of the contents of the ballot or make use of any means to identify the vote of the voter.

SEC. 29. *Procedure after voter has filled up the ballot*. – a) After the voter has filled his ballot, he shall fold it in the same manner as when he received it;

b) In the presence of all the members of the board of election inspectors, he shall affix his thumbmark in the corresponding space in the coupon, and return the folded ballot to the chairman;

c) The chairman, in the presence of the voter and all the members of the board of election inspectors, without unfolding the ballot or seeing its contents, shall verify its serial number as against the serial number previously entered at the back of the voter registration record or in CVL Form 2, as the case may be, to determine whether it is the same ballot given to the voter.

d) Any ballot returned to the chairman, the serial number of which does not tally with the serial number entered in the voter's voter registration record and CVL Form 2, shall be considered "SPOILED" and shall be so marked and signed by any member of the board of election inspectors, and placed inside the compartment for spoiled ballots.

e) The voter shall be given another ballot so as not to disenfranchise him, without prejudice, however, to the filing of appropriate charges. For this purpose, the board of election inspectors shall submit to the Election Officer the names of such voters;

f) The voter shall forthwith affix his thumbmark in the corresponding space at the back of his voter registration record, or in CVL Form 2 in case his voter registration record is not included in the Book of Voters;

g) The chairman shall likewise sign in the proper space at the back of the voter registration record, or in the CVL Form 2 in case the voter's VRR is not included in the Book of Voters;

h) The chairman shall detach the coupon in the presence of the voter and of the other members of the board of election inspectors and shall deposit the detached coupon in the compartment for spoiled ballots.

i) Any ballot returned to the chairman, the detachable coupon of which has been removed not in the presence of the other members of the board of election inspectors and of the voter, shall be considered "SPOILED" and shall be so marked and signed by any member of the board of election inspectors, and placed inside the compartment for spoiled ballots. The voter shall be given another ballot so as not to disenfranchise him, without prejudice, however, to the filing of appropriate charges. For this purpose, the board of election inspectors shall submit to the Election Officer the names of such voters;

j) The chairman shall return the ballot to the voter. The voter, in turn, shall personally deposit the same inside the compartment for valid ballots.

k) If it should become necessary to make room for more ballots, the chairman may, in the presence of the members and watchers, open the box and press down with his hands the ballots contained therein without removing any of them, after which the board of election inspectors shall again close the interior cover of the ballot box and lock it with padlocks as herein provided; and

l) The voter shall then leave the polling place.

SEC. 30. *Preparation of ballots for illiterate and disabled voters*. — a) No voter shall be allowed to vote as illiterate or physically disabled unless such fact is so indicated in his voter registration record.

b) A voter who is illiterate or physically unable to prepare the ballot by himself may be assisted in the preparation of his ballot by a relative within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity, or, if he has none, by any person of his confidence who belongs to the same household, or by any member of the board of election inspectors;

c) No person may assist an illiterate or disabled voter more than three (3) times except the members of the board of election inspectors;

d) In all cases, the poll clerk shall first verify from the illiterate or disabled voter whether the latter had authorized the assistor to prepare the ballot for him;

e) The assistor shall, in the presence of the illiterate or disabled voter, prepare the ballot using a ballot secrecy folder; and

f) The assistor shall bind himself in writing and under oath to fill the ballot strictly in accordance with the instructions of the voter and not to reveal the contents of the ballot, by affixing his signature in the appropriate space in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes.

Sec. 31. *Accessibility of polling place to disabled voters.* — The Election Officers, in coordination with the proper school or building officials, shall see to it that the designated polling places of precincts where there are disabled registered voters as shown in their voter registration record are located in the ground floors of the polling centers so that the disabled voters can have easy access thereto.

Sec. 32. *Spoiled ballots.* – A ballot is considered spoiled in the following instances:

a) When the voter accidentally defaces the ballot in such a way that it can no longer be lawfully used.

In such a case, the voter shall surrender the ballot folded to the chairman who shall note in the corresponding space in the voter's voter registration record and CVL Form 2 that said ballot is spoiled. The chairman shall enter the serial number of the spoiled ballot in the space provided for in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes. The spoiled ballot shall be so marked and signed by any member of the board of election inspectors, and placed inside the compartment for spoiled ballots. The voter shall then be given another ballot duly authenticated by the chairman after announcing the serial number of the second ballot and recording said serial number in the corresponding space in the voter's voter registration record and CVL Form 2. If the second ballot is again spoiled, the same shall be surrendered correctly folded to the chairman in the same manner as the first spoiled ballot. No voter however, shall change his ballot more than once.

b) When the detachable coupon of the ballot was detached not in the presence of the Board; and

c) When the serial number of the ballot returned by the voter is different from the serial number of the ballot earlier given to the said voter.

Sec. 33. *Challenge against illegal voters.* — Any voter or watcher may challenge any person offering to vote for:

a) not being registered; or
b) using the name of another; or
c) suffering from an existing disqualification.

In such case, the board of election inspectors shall satisfy itself as to whether or not the ground for the challenge is true by requiring proof of registration, identity or qualification. However, the absence of an identification card shall not preclude the voter from voting if his identity can be established from the photograph, fingerprint, or specimen signatures in his voter registration record or if a member of the board of election inspectors identifies him under oath. Such identification shall be reflected in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes.

Sec. 34. *Challenge based on certain illegal acts.* - Any voter or watcher may challenge any voter offering to vote on the ground that the challenged person has:

a) Received or expects to receive, paid, offered or promised to pay, contributed, offered or promised to contribute money or anything of value as consideration for his vote or for the vote of another; or

b) Made or received a promise to influence the giving or withholding of any such vote; or

c) Made a bet or is interested directly or indirectly in a bet that depends upon the results of the election.

The challenged person shall take an oath before the board of election inspectors that he has not committed any of the acts alleged in the challenge. Upon taking such oath, the challenge shall be dismissed and the voter shall be allowed to vote. In case the voter refuses to take such oath, the challenge shall be sustained and the voter shall not be allowed to vote.

Sec. 35. *Record of challenges and oaths.* — The poll clerk shall record in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes all challenges and oaths taken in connection therewith and the decision of the board of election inspectors in each case.

Sec. 36. *Disposition of unused ballots.* — The chairman shall record in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes the quantity and serial numbers of unused ballots. Thereafter, he shall, in the presence of the members of the board of election inspectors and watchers, tear the unused ballots in half lengthwise without removing the stubs and detachable coupons. One half shall be placed in the envelope for the purpose, and submitted to the Election Officer; while the other half shall be placed in another envelope for the purpose, and then deposited inside the compartment of the ballot box for valid ballots. Such facts shall be entered in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes.

Sec. 37. *Prohibition against premature announcement of voting.* — Before the termination of the voting, no member of the board of election inspectors shall make any announcement as to whether a certain registered voter has already voted or not, as to how many have already voted or how many so far have failed to vote or any other fact tending to show or showing the state of the polls; nor shall he make any statement at any time, except as witness before a court or body as to how any person voted.

Article V – COUNTING OF VOTES

SEC. 38. *Venue for counting; designation of counting centers.* – The votes shall be counted at the counting centers designated by the Election Officer and approved by the Provincial Election Supervisor.

In designating the counting center, the security of the site, accessibility and size of the area, among other things, shall be considered.

SEC. 39. *Transport of BEIs & election paraphernalia.* — After the termination of voting, the board of election inspectors shall place inside the ballot box all the election documents and paraphernalia, except the book of voters, indelible ink, thumbprint takers and other materials which might stain or mark the ballot, lock it with 3 padlocks and one fixed length plastic seal. Each member of the board of election inspectors shall keep a key to a padlock. They shall then be transported to the counting center where they shall count the votes cast and ascertain the results.

It shall be the duty of the Election Officer to coordinate with the Department of Education, PNP/AFP, and DILG to ensure the safe transport of the boards of election inspectors and the election forms and paraphernalia to the counting center.

The candidates and political parties shall be notified of the transfer of the ballot boxes and shall have the right to accompany the boards of election inspectors when they transfer the ballot boxes from the polling places to the counting centers. The serial numbers of the ballot box and the fixed-length seals, the time when the board left the polling place and the time of arrival at the counting center and the names of the persons accompanying the transfer of the ballot box shall be recorded in the minutes of the proceedings of the board.

The Election Officer, in coordination with the military and police authorities, shall ensure that the counting center is provided with adequate security.

Sec. 40. *Issuance of election returns.* - Immediately before the start of the counting of ballots, the Election Officer or any official authorized by the Commission shall issue the election returns to the board of election inspectors at the counting center.

Sec. 41. *Counting of votes to be public and without interruption.* – Upon arrival at the designated counting center, the boards of election inspectors shall proceed to their respective room assignments and publicly count the votes cast and ascertain the results of the election in their respective precincts.

Unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, the boards of election inspectors shall not adjourn or postpone or delay the count until it has been fully completed.

Sec. 42. *Preliminaries to the counting of votes.* — The chairman or the poll clerk shall unlock the padlocks, break the fixed length plastic seal, open the ballot box and take out the ballots from the compartment for valid ballots. The board of election inspectors shall then proceed to determine whether there are:

a) **Excess ballots.** The board of election inspectors shall count the ballots in the compartment for valid ballots without unfolding them or exposing their contents, except to ascertain that each ballot is single, and compare the number of ballots in the compartment with the number of voters who actually voted. If there are excess ballots, all of the ballots shall be returned to the compartment and thoroughly mixed therein. The poll clerk, without seeing the ballots and with his back to the box, shall publicly draw out as many ballots as may be equal to the excess and, without unfolding them, place them in the envelope for excess/marked/spoiled/half of torn unused ballots.

If, in the course of examination, ballots are found folded together before they were deposited in the box, they shall be placed in the envelope for excess/marked/spoiled/half of torn unused ballots. The envelope shall be signed by the members of the board of election inspectors, sealed and deposited in the compartment for valid ballots.

b) **Ballots with undetached coupons.** In case ballots with undetached coupons are found in the compartment, the coupons shall be removed and deposited in the compartment for spoiled ballots. The ballots shall be included in the pile of valid ballots.

c) **Ballots with the word "spoiled".** If ballots with the word "spoiled" should be found in the compartment, they shall be placed in the envelope for excess/marked/spoiled/half of torn unused ballots. The envelope shall be signed by the members of the board of election inspectors, sealed and deposited in the compartment for spoiled ballots.

d) **Marked ballots.** The board of election inspectors shall then unfold the ballots and determine whether there are any marked ballots. If any should be found, they shall be placed in the envelope for excess/marked/spoiled/half of torn unused ballots. The envelope shall be signed by the members of the board of election inspectors, sealed and deposited in the compartment for valid ballots.

Excess and marked ballots shall not be counted.

Sec. 43. *Ballots deposited in the compartment for spoiled ballots.* — The ballots deposited in the compartment for spoiled ballots shall be presumed "spoiled", whether or not they contain such notation; but if the board of election inspectors should find that during the voting any valid ballot was erroneously deposited in this compartment, or if any ballot separated as excess or marked had been erroneously deposited therein, the board of election inspectors shall open said compartment after the voting and before the counting of votes for the sole purpose of drawing out the ballots erroneously deposited therein. The valid ballots so withdrawn shall be mixed with the other valid ballots. Such fact shall be recorded in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes.

Sec. 44. *Manner of counting of votes.*— The table shall be cleared of all unnecessary writing paraphernalia. The board of election inspectors shall unfold the ballots and form separate piles of one hundred (100) ballots each, held together by rubber bands. The chairman of the board of election inspectors shall take the ballots of the first pile one by one and read the names of the candidates voted for and the offices for which they were voted in the order in which they appear thereon.

During the counting, the chairman, the poll clerk and the third member shall position themselves in such a way as to give the watchers and the public an unimpeded view of the ballot being read by the chairman, as well as of the election returns and tally board being simultaneously accomplished by the poll clerk and the third member, respectively. Any violation hereof shall constitute an election offense.

The watchers and the public shall not touch any of the said election documents.

The poll clerk and the third member shall record in the election returns and in the tally board, respectively, each vote as it is read. The vote for each candidate shall be recorded by a vertical line, except every fifth vote, which shall be recorded by a diagonal line crossing the previous four vertical lines.

After finishing the first pile of ballots, the board of election inspectors shall determine the sub-total of the number of votes for each candidate. The sub-total shall be recorded and encircled on the tally board and on the election returns. In case of discrepancy between the entries in the election returns and tally board, a recount shall be made. For this purpose, the ballots shall again be grouped together as before.

The same procedure shall be followed with the succeeding piles of ballots.

After all the ballots have been read, the board of election inspectors shall affix their initials after the last vote recorded or immediately after the name of the candidates who did not receive any vote. Thereafter, the board of election inspectors shall record, in words and in figures, the total number of votes obtained by each candidate both in the election returns and in the tally board. The counted ballots shall be placed in the envelope for the purpose. The envelope shall be closed, signed, sealed and deposited in the compartment for valid ballots. The tally board as accomplished and certified by the board of election inspectors shall not be changed or destroyed but shall be kept in the compartment for valid ballots.

Sec. 45. *Rules for the appreciation of ballots.* - In the reading and appreciation of ballots, every ballot shall be presumed to be valid unless there is clear and good reason to justify its rejection. The board of election inspectors shall observe the following rules, bearing in mind that the object of the election is to obtain the expression of the voter's will:

a) Where only the first name of a candidate or only his surname is written, the vote for such candidate is valid, if there is no other candidate with the same first name or surname for the same office;

b) Where only the first name of a candidate is written on the ballot, which when read, has a sound similar to the surname of another candidate, the vote shall be counted in favor of the candidate with such surname. If there are two or more candidates with the same full name, first name or surname and one of them is the incumbent, and on the ballot is written only such full name, first name or surname, the vote shall be counted in favor of the incumbent;

c) In case the candidate is a woman who uses her maiden or married surname or both and there is another candidate with the same surname, a ballot bearing only such surname shall be counted in favor of the candidate who is an incumbent;

d) When two or more words are written on the same line on the ballot, all of which are the surnames of two or more candidates, the same shall not be counted for any of them, unless one is a surname of an incumbent who has served for at least one year in which case it shall be counted in favor of the latter;

e) When two or more words are written on different lines on the ballot all of which are the surnames of two or more candidates bearing the same surname for an office for which the law authorizes the election of more than one and there are the same number of such surnames written as there are candidates with that surname, the vote shall be counted in favor of all the candidates bearing the surname;

f) When on the ballot is written a single word which is the first name of a candidate and which is at the same time the surname of his opponent, the vote shall be counted in favor of the latter;

g) When two words are written on the ballot, one of which is the first name of a candidate and the other is the surname of his opponent, the vote shall not be counted for either;

h) A name or surname incorrectly written which, when read, has a sound similar to the name or surname of a candidate when correctly written shall be counted in his favor;

i) When a name of a candidate appears in a space of the ballot for an office for which he is a candidate and in another space for which he is not a candidate, it shall be counted in his favor for the office for which he is a candidate and the vote for the office for which he is not a candidate shall be considered as stray, except when it is used as a means to identify the voter, in which case, the whole ballot shall be void;

j) If the word or words written on the appropriate blank on the ballot is the identical name or surname or full name, as the case may be, of two or more candidates for the same office none of whom is an incumbent, the vote shall be counted in favor of that candidate to whose ticket belong all the other candidates voted for in the same ballot for the same constituency;

k) When in a space in the ballot there appears a name of a candidate that is erased and another clearly written, the vote is valid for the latter;

l) The erroneous initial of the first name which accompanies the correct surname of a candidate, the erroneous initial of the surname accompanying the correct first name of a candidate, or the erroneous middle initial of the candidate shall not annul the vote in favor of the latter;

m) The fact that there exists another person who is not a candidate with the first name or surname of a candidate shall not prevent the adjudication of the vote of the latter;

n) Ballots which contains prefixes such as "Sr.", "Mr.", "Datu", "Don", "Ginoo", "Hon.", "Gob.", or suffixes like "Hijo", "Jr.", "Segundo", are valid;

o) The use of the nicknames and appellations of affection and friendship, if accompanied by the first name or surname of the candidate, does not annul such vote, except when they were used as a means to identify the voter, in which case the whole ballot is invalid: Provided, that if the nickname used is unaccompanied by the name or surname of a candidate and it is the one by which he is generally or popularly known in the locality, the name shall be counted in favor of said candidate, if there is no other candidate for the same office with the same nickname;

p) Any vote containing initials only or which is illegible or which does not sufficiently identify the candidate for whom it is intended shall be considered as a stray vote but shall not invalidate the whole ballot;

q) If on the ballot is correctly written the first name of a candidate but with a different surname, or the surname of the candidate is correctly written but with a different first name, the vote shall not be counted in favor of any candidate having such first name and/or surname but the ballot shall be considered valid for other candidates;

r) Any ballot written with crayon, lead pencil, or in ink, wholly or in part, shall be valid;

s) Where there are two or more candidates voted for in an office for which the law authorizes the election of only one, the vote shall not be counted in favor of any of them, but this shall not affect the validity of the other votes therein;

t) If the candidates voted for exceed the number of those to be elected, the ballot is valid, but the votes shall be counted only in favor of the candidates whose names were firstly written by the voter within the spaces provided for said office in the ballot until the authorized number is covered;

u) Any vote in favor of a person who has not filed a certificate of candidacy or in favor of a candidate for an office for which he did not present himself shall be considered as a stray vote but it shall not invalidate the whole ballot;

v) Ballots containing the name of a candidate printed and pasted on a blank space of the ballot or affixed thereto through any mechanical process are totally null and void;

w) Circles, crosses or lines put on the spaces on which the voter has not voted shall be considered as signs to indicate his desistance from voting and shall not invalidate the ballot;

x) Unless it should clearly appear that they have been deliberately put by the voter to serve as identification marks, commas, dots, lines, or hyphens between the first name and surname of a candidate, or in other parts of the ballot, traces of the letter "T", "J" and other similar ones, the first letters or syllables of names which the voter does not continue, the use of two or more kinds of writing and unintentional or accidental flourishes, strokes or strains, shall not invalidate the ballot;

y) Any ballot which clearly appears to have been filled by two distinct persons before it was deposited in the ballot box during the voting is totally null and void;

z) Any vote cast in favor of a candidate who has been disqualified by final judgment shall be considered as stray and shall not be counted but it shall not invalidate the ballot;

aa) Ballots wholly written in Arabic in localities where it is of general use are valid. To read them, the board of election inspectors may employ an interpreter who shall take an oath that he shall read the votes correctly;

bb) The accidental tearing or perforation of a ballot does not annul it;

cc) Failure to remove the detachable coupon from a ballot does not annul such ballot;

dd) When on the proper spaces for regional governor and regional vice-governor are written the names, surnames or nicknames of official candidates of the same political party for the said offices, the votes shall be counted in their favor;

ee) When on the space for regional governor is written the name, surname or nickname of an official party candidate for regional governor and on the space for regional vice-governor is written the name, surname or nickname of an independent candidate or of an official candidate of another party, the vote shall be counted in favor of the candidates for regional governor and regional vice-governor chosen by the voter;

ff) When on the space for regional governor is written the name, surname or nickname of an official party candidate for regional governor and the space for regional vice-governor is left blank, the vote shall be counted in favor of the said candidate for regional governor and his running mate for regional vice-governor;

gg) When the space for regional governor is left blank and on the space for regional vice-governor is written the name, surname or nickname of an official party candidate for regional vice-governor, the vote shall be counted in favor of the said candidate for regional vice-governor and his party mate for regional governor;

hh) When the space for regional governor is left blank and on the space for regional vice-governor is written the name, surname or nickname of an independent candidate for regional vice-governor, the vote shall be counted in favor of the independent candidate for regional vice-governor chosen by the voter. No vote shall be given in favor of any candidate for regional governor;

ii) When on the space for regional governor is written the name, surname or nickname of an independent candidate for regional governor and on the space for regional vice-governor is written the name, surname or nickname of an independent candidate or of an official party candidate for regional vice-governor, the vote shall be counted in favor of the candidates for regional governor and regional vice-governor chosen by the voter;

jj) When on the space for regional governor is written the name, surname or nickname of an independent candidate for regional governor and the space for regional vice-governor is left blank, the vote shall be counted in favor of the independent candidate for regional governor chosen by the voter. No vote shall be given to any candidate for regional vice-governor;

Article VI – PREPARATION AND SAFEKEEPING OF ELECTION RETURNS AND OTHER ELECTION FORMS AND PARAPHERNALIA

SEC. 46. *Preparation of election returns and tally board.* – The boards of election inspectors shall prepare in their own handwriting the election returns and tally board simultaneously with the counting of the votes for their respective precincts.

Before the actual counting of votes, the chairman shall record in the election returns the following data:

a) Date of the election; the precinct number, *barangay*, city/municipality and province in which the election is held;

b) Total number of:
   1. registered voters in the precinct;
   2. voters included by order of the court;
   3. voters excluded by order of the court;
   4. voters who actually voted;
   5. ballots found in the compartment for valid ballots;
   6. valid ballots withdrawn from the compartment for spoiled ballots because they were erroneously placed therein;
   7. spoiled ballots;
   8. excess ballots;
   9. ballots found folded together; and
   10. marked ballots.

As the chairman reads the ballots, the poll clerk and the third member shall record simultaneously in the election returns and in the tally board, respectively, the following:

a) Votes obtained by each candidate recorded by a vertical line, except for every fifth vote which shall be recorded by a diagonal line crossing the previous four vertical lines; and

b) Sub-total of votes obtained by each candidate after each pile of 100 ballots read;

After all the ballots have been read:

a) The members of the board of election inspectors shall affix their initials immediately after the last vote recorded or immediately after the name of the candidate who did not receive any vote;

b) The poll clerk and the third member shall record the total number of votes obtained by each candidate words and figures;

c) The watchers if any, shall affix their signatures and imprint their thumbmarks on the right hand portion of the election returns and the tally board;

d) The members of the board of election inspectors shall accomplish the certification portion of the election returns and tally board;

e) The board of election inspectors shall ensure that the entries on the first copy of the election returns are clearly impressed on the other copies.

SEC. 47. *Announcement of the result of the election in the polling place.* — Upon the completion of the election returns, the chairman shall orally and publicly announce the total number of votes received by each candidate stating their corresponding offices.

SEC. 48. *Distribution of election returns.* - Immediately after the announcement of results, each copy of the election returns shall be folded, sealed with a serially numbered paper seal and placed in its corresponding envelope to be distributed as follows:

a. The *first* copy, to the Provincial Board of Canvassers;
b. The *second* copy, to the Regional Board of Canvassers;
c. The *third* copy, to the Commission;
d. The *fourth* copy, to the citizens arm authorized by the Commission to conduct an unofficial count;
e. The *fifth* copy, to the dominant majority party presenting candidate in this election as determined by the Commission;
f. The *sixth* copy, to the dominant minority party presenting candidate in this election as determined by the Commission;
g. The *seventh* copy, to be deposited inside the ballot box.

The board of election inspectors shall issue Certificate of Votes (CE Form 13) received by candidates upon request of the candidates or their duly accredited watchers. The certificate shall be signed and thumbmarked by each member of the board of election inspectors and shall contain:

a) The total number of votes obtained by a candidate, written in words and in figures;
b) The precinct number;
c) The name of the city or municipality and province;
d) The total number of voters who voted in the precinct; and
e) The date and time of its issuance.

The board of election inspectors shall require the requesting watcher to acknowledge receipt hereof.

The refusal of the chairman and members of the board of election inspectors to furnish said certificate shall constitute an election offense.

SEC. 49. *Alteration and correction in the election returns.* — Before the announcement of the results of the election in the polling place, the board of election inspectors may, on its own, make any correction or alteration in the election returns and tally board provided the corrections or alterations are duly initialed by all the members thereof.

After announcement of the results of the election in the polling place, the board of election inspectors shall not make any alteration or amendment in any of the copies of the election returns, unless so ordered by the Commission upon petition of all or the majority of the members of the board of election inspectors within five (5) days from the date of the election or twenty-four (24) hours from the time a copy of the election returns concerned is opened by the board of election inspectors, whichever is earlier. The petition shall be accompanied by proof of service upon all candidates affected. If the petition is filed by all members of the board of election inspectors and the result of the election would not be affected by said correction and none of the candidates affected objects thereto, the Commission, upon being satisfied of the veracity of the petition and of the error alleged therein, shall order the board of election inspectors to make the proper correction on the election returns.

However, if a candidate affected by said petition objects thereto, whether the petition is filed by all or only a majority of the members of the board of election inspectors and the result of the election would be affected by the correction sought to be made, the Commission shall proceed summarily to hear the petition. If it finds the petition meritorious and there are no evidence or signs indicating that the identity and integrity of the ballot box have been violated, the Commission shall order the opening of the ballot box. After satisfying itself that the integrity of the ballots therein has also been duly preserved, the Commission shall order the recounting of the votes of the candidates affected and the proper corrections made on the election returns, unless the correction sought is such that it can be made without the need of opening the ballot box.

SEC. 50. *Disposition of ballot boxes, keys, election returns and other documents.* — Upon the termination of the counting of votes and the announcement of the results of the election in the precinct, the board of election inspectors shall:

a) Give the copies of the election returns intended for the dominant majority party, dominant minority party and the citizens' arm authorized by the Commission to conduct an unofficial count, to their respective representatives, if any, who have been authorized by said parties and organizations to receive such copies. If there is no such authorized representative in the counting center, the board of election inspectors shall submit said copies to the Election Officer.

b) Place the following inside the compartment of the ballot box for valid ballots:
   1. Envelopes containing:
      i) Used/Counted official ballots;
      ii) Copy of Election Returns intended for the ballot box;
      iii) Copy of the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes of intended for the ballot box;
   2. Tally board; and
   3. Stubs of used pads of official ballots.

c) Ensure that the envelopes containing the:
   1. Half of torn unused ballots;
   2. Marked Ballots; and
   3. Excess Ballots,

   are inside the compartment of the ballot box for valid ballots.

d) Close the inner compartments of the ballot box, lock them with one (1) serially numbered fixed length plastic seal. Close the ballot box and lock the outer cover with three (3) padlocks and one (1) serially numbered fixed length plastic seal. The three keys to the padlocks shall be placed in separate envelopes, which shall be sealed and signed by all members of the board of election inspectors;

e) Deliver the ballot box, accompanied by watchers, to the city or municipal treasurer.

For this purpose, the city/municipal treasurer shall, if necessary, keep his office open all night on the day of the election and shall provide the necessary facilities for said delivery at the expense of the city/municipality.

In case the ballot box delivered by the board of election inspectors is not locked and/or sealed, the treasurer shall lock and/or seal the ballot box. The treasurer shall include such fact, including the serial number of the fixed length plastic seal used, in his report to the Commission.

f) Deliver to the Election Officer:
   1. Envelopes containing copies of the election returns intended for the Provincial Board of Canvassers, Regional Board of Canvassers and the Commission;
   2. Book of Voters;
   3. CVL Form No. 2;
   4. CVL Report 1-B;
   5. Two (2) copies of the certified list of deactivated voters;

6. Three (3) envelopes, each containing a key to a padlock of the ballot box, which shall each be delivered, under proper receipt, to the:
    1. Provincial Election Supervisor;
    2. Provincial Prosecutor; and
    3. Provincial Treasurer.
7. Envelope containing the copy of the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes intended for the Commission;
8. Envelope containing the other half of the torn unused official ballots;
9. List of Voters allowed to vote after the close of voting; and
10. Other pertinent papers and documents.

On the day after the election, the Election Officer or the treasurer, as the case may be, shall require the board of election inspectors who failed to deliver the election documents or paraphernalia mentioned herein to deliver the same immediately.

SEC. 51. *Use and preservation of the list of voters.* — The Election Officer shall keep the CVL Form 2, Report 1B and the list of deactivated voters in a safe place until such time that the Commission gives instructions on their disposition.

SEC. 52. *Omission or erroneous inclusion of documents in ballot box.* – If, after locking the ballot box, the board of election inspectors discovers that some documents or articles required to be placed in the ballot box were not placed therein, the board of election inspectors, instead of opening it to place therein said documents or articles, shall deliver the same to the Election Officer. The Election Officer shall take appropriate measures to preserve the integrity of the documents.

In no instance shall the ballot box be reopened to place therein or to take out therefrom any document or article except in proper cases and with prior written authority of the Commission to retrieve copies of the election returns which will be needed in any canvass. In such instance, the members of the board of election inspectors and the watchers shall be notified of the time and place of the opening of said ballot box. However, if there are other authentic copies of the election returns outside of the ballot box which can be used in the canvass, such copies of the election returns shall be used in said canvass and the opening of the ballot box to retrieve copies of the election returns placed therein shall then be dispensed with.

Article VII – DELIVERY AND TRANSMITTAL OF ELECTION RETURNS

SEC. 53. *Delivery and transmittal of election returns.* — The board of election inspectors shall deliver to the Election Officer, copies of the election returns intended for the following:

a) Provincial Board of Canvassers;
b) Regional Board of Canvassers; and
c) Commission on Elections;

The copies of the election returns intended for the dominant majority party, the dominant minority party and the citizens arm authorized by the Commission to conduct an unofficial count, shall be given in the counting center to their respective representatives who have been authorized by said parties and organizations to receive such copies.

SEC. 54. *Delivery and transmittal of election returns by the election officer.* — The Election Officer shall segregate all copies of the election returns received from the board of election inspectors and deposit them in ballot boxes. Thereafter, he shall lock each ballot box with three padlocks and metal seal, and deliver the ballot boxes and their keys to the body or offices concerned with sufficient security escort from either the PNP or AFP and watchers of political parties, candidates and the accredited citizens arm of the Commission.

The ballot boxes containing copies of the election returns intended for the Commission and the provincial board of canvassers, with their keys, shall be submitted by the election assistant of the Office of the Election Officer to the Office of the Provincial Election Supervisor, using the fastest means of transportation available not later than twelve o'clock noon on November 27, 2001.

If after the first delivery, not all of the election returns from the precincts of the city or municipality have been submitted, the Election Officer shall designate another personnel in his office who is trustworthy to receive and deliver the remaining copies of the election returns to the Office of the Provincial Election Supervisor.

In all instances, the Election Officer and the Election Assistant shall observe and comply with the above procedure of delivering said copies of the election returns such all election returns are delivered to the Office of the Provincial Election Supervisor at the most in two (2) batches and in no case later than November 28, 2001.

The most reliable and able Election Assistant in the Office of the Provincial Election Supervisor shall receive the copies of the election returns delivered by the Election Assistants of the cities/ municipalities of the province, issue proper receipt therefor and immediately submit said returns to the provincial board of canvassers.

For purposes of transmitting copies of the election returns intended for the Regional Board of Canvassers and the Commission, the Provincial Election Supervisor shall designate the most reliable election assistant holding permanent appointment to deliver all copies thereof to the Commission on Elections in Manila, not later than November 29, 2001. However, if the venue for the regional canvass will not be held in Manila, the election returns intended for the Regional Board of Canvassers shall be delivered by the Provincial Election Supervisor to the said board, together with the certificate of canvass of votes for regional governor and regional vice-governor.

In every case, delivery shall be undertaken with sufficient security escort and watchers of candidates, parties, organization or coalition.

SEC. 55. *Special procedures.* — The express provisions of this resolution notwithstanding, the Commission may, in exceptional cases, adopt special procedures in the transmission, storage, custody, distribution and retrieval of accountable forms and paraphernalia to fulfill its constitutional mandate to ensure free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible elections.

SEC. 56. *Effectivity.* — This resolution shall take effect on the seventh day after its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

SEC. 57. *Dissemination.* — Let the Education and Information Department, this Commission, cause the publication of this resolution and furnish copies thereof to all Election Officers, Provincial Election Supervisors in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and Regional Election Directors of Regions IX and XII at least thirty (30) days before election, and to all board of election inspectors at least fifteen (15) days before election.

ALFREDO L. BENIPAYO
Chairman

LUZVIMINDA G. TANCANGCO
Commissioner

RUFINO S. B. JAVIER
Commissioner

RALPH C. LANTION
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR
Commissioner

**odeda/epdm*
emn/gi.armm2001
10/05/01

— —oOo— —

PRECINCT NO. ______________

____
(Barangay, City/Municipality & Province)

TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN/ POLL CLERK/THIRD MEMBER

We hereby certify that as of ________________ A.M. today, the Chairman/Poll Clerk/Third Member is absent, for which reason we have temporarily appointed ______________________________, a public school teacher/ qualified registered voter of the precinct, to act as Chairman/Poll Clerk/Third Member of the Board of Election Inspectors of this precinct until the later appears or the vacancy is filled.

The above-named appointee immediately assumed office upon taking his oath as required by law.

____
Chairman

____________________ ____________________
Poll Clerk Member

____________________, 2001
Date

(Prepare one (1) copy to be submitted to the Election Officer after the meeting of the Board)

— —oOo— —

CERTIFICATION OF CHALLENGE/PROTEST AND DECISION OF THE BOARD

________________ ________________________
(Precinct No.) (Barangay, City/Municipality)

WE HEREBY CERTIFY that on ____________________, 2001, ____, of
(Challenger/Protestant)

____
(Address)

MADE THE FOLLOWING CHALLENGE/PROTEST

____
____
____
____
____
____
(State nature of ground for challenge/protest and name of individual against whom challenge/protest is made)

The Board after considering the evidence presented to it, decided as follows:

DECISION OF THE BOARD

____
____
____
____
____
____

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we hereby sign these presents, this ________ day of ________________, 2001.

____
Chairman

____________________ ____________________
Poll Clerk Member

(Prepare in three copies. Deliver one copy to the member of the board, voter or watcher making challenge or protest, and one copy to the individual against whom the challenge or protest is made. The third copy shall be retained by the board.)

OATH OF VOTER CHALLENGED FOR ILLEGAL ACTS

I, ______________________________, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I have not received nor expect to receive, have not paid, offered or promised to pay, nor have contributed, offered or promised to contribute money or anything of value as consideration for my vote or for the vote of another, that I have not made or received any promise to influence the giving or withholding or any vote; and that I have not made any bet and that I am not directly interested in any bet or wager depending upon the result of the election.

____
Signature

Subscribed and sworn to before me this __________ day of ____________________, 2001.

____
Chairman, Board of Election Inspector

Precinct No. ____________ of ____________________
(City/Municipality and Province)

(Only one copy of this form shall be prepared and attached to the original copy of the Minutes of Voting)

— —oOo— —

OATH OF IDENTIFICATION OF CHALLENGED VOTER

THE UNDERSIGNED, a member of the board of election inspectors of Precinct No. ____________________, Barangay ______________________________, city/municipality of ______________________________, solemnly swears that ______________________________ is a registered voter of this precinct and is personally known to the undersigned and that he is the same person who now presents himself to vote under said name.

____
Signature

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _______ day of ______________, 2001, affiant being personally known to the undersigned as a voter of this precinct.

____
Chairman/Member, Board of Election Inspector

Precinct No. ____________ of ____________________
(City/Municipality and Province)

(Prepare in duplicate. Attached the original to the original copy of the Minutes of Voting and counting of Votes. Give the duplicate to the person making the challenge.)

— —oOo— —

SUMMONS RE: IDENTITY OF CHALLENGE VOTER

____________ ____________________
(Precinct No.) (Barangay, City/Municipality)

____
(Province)

SUBPOENA

To: ______________________________
(Name)

____
(Address)

Pursuant to the authority granted under Sec. 137 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881, you are hereby commanded to immediately appear before the Board on November 26, 2001, to testify in connection with the identity of the following challenged voter:

____
(Name)

of ____
(Address)

Fail not under penalty of law.

____
(Member, Board of Election Inspector

The undersigned, ______________________________, after having been duly sworn, deposes and says that he served the forgoing Subpoena upon the person named herein on November 26, 2001.

____
Signature

Subscribed and sworn to before me this __________ day of ______________, 2001.

____
(Administering Officer

(Prepare in duplicate. The original shall be served upon the person summoned. The duplicate shall be returned to and retained by the Board.)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY

A large reputable Bank in Makati is accepting proposals to prequalify to bid the:

Preparation and Production Of an Annual Report

The above job will include design and layout, typesetting, photography including all photographic materials and processing, color separation, printing and binding, and related services. The Bank requires the following to be submitted together with the formal offer to prequalify:

1. Proof that the offeror has at least five (5) years experience in the design and layout, photography and production/printing of Annual Reports
2. Track record in the production of Annual Reports for the top 500 corporations in the Philippines
3. Written conformity to the following conditions:
   - Background check specially from previous clients shall be conducted by the Bank
   - Visit to check on equipment and other facilities
   - A refundable deposit of Manager's Check of P50,000.00 shall be submitted when required
4. Audited Financial Statement for the last 2 years (2000-2001)
5. Copy of Income Tax Return for the last 2 years (2000-2001)
6. Proof of registration of business name
7. List of references of previous clients

DBP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein or to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank. The decision of the Bank is final and binding.

Please address formal offer to The Chairman, Annual Report Committee, P.O. Box 1996, Makati Central Post Office 1200, Makati City. The Committee shall accept all submissions postmarked not later than **November 22, 2001.**

(PDI - Nov. 8 & 9, 2001)

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dti
DEPARTMENT OF
TRADE & INDUSTRY
PHILIPPINES

Make it Philippines!

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PRELIMINARY
DETERMINATION OF THE SAFEGUARD MEASURES
CASE AGAINST THE IMPORTATION OF GRAY
PORTLAND CEMENT FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES
(SAFEGUARD CASE NO. 02-2001)**

ORDER

The Philippine cement industry, represented by Philippine Cement Corporation (Philcemcor) filed a safeguard measures protest against the importation of gray Portland cement. The product is classified under HS Code 2523.2900 and 2523.9000. The protest alleged that gray Portland cement are being imported in increased quantities and that as a result thereof causes serious injury to the domestic industry.

The period of investigation covered imports from 1996 to 2000. For injury determination, the Department considered relevant information for the same period.

WHEREFORE, IN VIEW THEREOF, the Department of Trade and Industry, acting under Section 7 of RA 8800, the "Safeguard Measures Act," found after preliminary determination, an affirmative finding that increased imports of the product under consideration have caused serious injury to the domestic industry, particularly in terms of declining market share and domestic sales, increasing finished goods inventory and underutilization of production capacity.

Pursuant to Section 8 of RA 8800 which provides that **"In critical circumstances where a delay would cause damage which would be difficult to repair, and pursuant to a preliminary determination that increased imports are a substantial cause of, serious injury to the domestic industry"** the imposition of a provisional measure in the form of a cash bond amounting to P20.60 per 40 kg. bag shall be imposed for a period not exceeding 200 days from the date of the issuance by the Bureau of Customs of the relevant Customs Memorandum Order (CMO) on all importations of gray Portland cement.

Considering that gray Portland cement is one of the products covered by the ASEAN-CEPT Agreement, as provided under Articles 6 and 8 of the said Agreement, the Philippines is required to notify the Ministerial Level Council and to accord adequate opportunity for consultations with the governments of the ASEAN countries concerned which may be affected by the application of provisional measures on imports sourced from ASEAN countries. The provisional measure shall be imposed upon compliance with Articles 6.3 and 8 of the ASEAN-CEPT Agreement.

The case records will be transmitted to the Tariff Commission for formal investigation to determine whether or not there is a need to impose a definitive safeguard measure.

Let this Order be published immediately in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

SO ORDERED.

November 7, 2001

(Sgd.) MAR ROXAS
Secretary

(PDI – Nov. 9, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to inform the public that **Official Receipt Numbers 412209 to 412250** of the Philippine Daily Inquirer was lost.

Any transaction covered by this O.R. is no longer valid.

Philippine Daily Inquirer Management

(PDI – Nov. 9, 16 & 23, 2001)

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Dental scent

Q. Why do all dental clinics smell the same?.

A. What you're smelling is a mixture of essential oils dentists frequently use in the course of treatment. Many of these oils are natural or synthetic derivatives of products found in many households. A number of dental medicaments contain camphor, the same pungent substance that repels moths, while others are derivatives of items found on the spice rack: thyme and clove. The most prominent scent in a dental clinic is probably eugenol, a colorless or pale liquid that is the essential chemical component of clove oil. Dentists combine solutions of clove oil or eugenol with a mixture of rosin and zinc oxide to prepare a protective pack after gum surgery or as a temporary cement. Eugenol is also used as an antiseptic, especially in root-canal therapy, and as an anodyne (painkiller). This versatile liquid is also part of the mixture for temporary fillings, impression materials, and surgical dressings after periodontal (occuring around the tooth or affecting the gums) work.

Name Game. Listerine. The brand of mouthwash and gargle was named in honor of Joseph Lister, the 19th-century British surgeon who pioneered antiseptic surgery and sanitary operating room procedures. Listerine was developed by American physician Joseph Lawrence in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1880, and was manufactured locally by the Lambert Pharmacal Company (later to become the drug giant Warner-Lambert).

Ooops! Contrary to popular notion, white wine does not necessarily come from white grapes, and red wine from red grapes. White wine can come from grapes of any color. Although the skin and meat of some grapes is dark colored, the liquid in almost all grapes is light. To make red wine, the red skins are fermented along with the white grape juice.

WORD WATCH

Ubas : from the Spanish *uvas*, 'grapes.'

PDI – November 9, 2001

Republic of the Philippines
City of Parañaque
Metro Manila

Office of the Treasurer

3-B Second NOTICE OF DELINQUENCY IN THE PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAX

PURSUANT TO R.A. 7160, SECTION 254 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, HEREUNDER ARE THE REAL PROPERTY TAX DELINQUENTS:

1.) PACIFIC EQUIPMENT CORP.	E012-03925	1979-2001	5,978,851.24
Classification: Land Industrial			
Barangay San Martin De Porres			
2.) PASTOR LIM	E011-15167	1995-2001	4,139,764.48
Classification: Improvement			
Barangay San Isidro			
3.) GLOBO DEVELOPMENT INC.	E002-04724	2000-2001	4,581.78
Classification: Improvement	E002-04732	1988-2001	40,294.48
Barangay Baclaran	E002-04736	1988-2001	71,188.36
	E002-04744	1988-2001	34,063.00
	E002-04746	1988-2001	48,751.20
	E002-04748	1988-2001	65,033.04
	E002-04760	1988-2001	37,602.20
	E002-04763	1988-2001	32,212.84
	E002-04764	1988-2001	49,806.28
	E002-04767	1988-2001	82,690.88
	E002-04772	1988-2001	30,867.36
	E002-04788	1988-2001	42,851.84
	E002-04789	2001	1,478.40
	E002-04792	1988-2001	38,851.92
Classification: Improvement	E002-04796	1988-2001	73,482.00
Barangay Baclaran	E002-04799	1988-2001	64,371.12
	E002-04823	1988-2001	59,466.12
	E002-04824	1988-2001	2,663,205.64
	E002-04830	1990-2001	353,330.96
Classification: Land Parking	E002-04800/01/05	1988-2001	53,096.82
	E002-04806/07/08	1988-2001	53,096.82
	E002-04809/10/11	1988-2001	53,096.82
Classification: Residential	E002-04813/16	1988-2001	18,550.72
Improvement	E002-04818/19/20	1988-2001	31,473.62
	E002-04821/22	1988-2001	19,002.11
		SUB-TOTAL	4,042,446.33
5.) CELERINO AGUSTIN	E010-05349	1977-2001	2,764,520.00
c/o Clarita B. Ballesteros			
Classification: Land Residential			
Barangay San Dionisio			
6.) VM TOWER CON CORPORATION	E002-04719/04831	1988-2001	2,425,577.00
Classification: Land			
Barangay Baclaran			
7.) METROWORLD PROP. & HOLDING CORP.			
Classification: Land	E008-08204	1996-2001	1,998,673.93
Building	E008-08205		
Land	E008-08231		
Land	E008-08232		
Land	E008-08302		
Land	E010-06793		
Building	E010-06794		
Land	E011-04341		
Land	E015-00140		
Barangay Moonwalk			
8.) PHILIPPINE APPAREL INC.	E012-03833	1995-2001	1,921,205.27
Classification: Building			
Barangay San Martin De Porres			
9.) HERMINIO AND BONIFACIO SORILLA			
Classification: Land	E012-03832	1991-95 Pd.OR#1992620	(-200,000.00)
		OR#1995472 11-06-01	(-37,398.37)
		1996-2001	549,496.25
Building	E012-04148		624,522.25
Barangay San Martin De Porres		SUB-TOTAL	1,174,018.50
10.) ELORDE SPORTS COMPLEX	E009-09527	1985-2001	1,174,006.71
Classification: Improvement			
Barangay San Antonio			
11.) PERCIVAL GAVIOLA			
Classification: Land Residential	E014-00358	1972-2001	886,163.28
Barangay Sun Valley			
12.) VICENTE PENALA			
Classification: Land Residential	E014-00827	1980-2001	395,045.70
Barangay Sun Valley			
13.) HUSTO LONZAME			
Classification: Land Residential	E010-05525	1948-2001	300,673.51
Barangay San Dionisio			
14.) RODOLFO AGATI	E011-10178/79	1988-2001	136,072.38
Classification: Residential Land			
Barangay San Isidro			

AT ANY TIME BEFORE THE DISTRAINT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY, PAYMENT OF THE TAX WITH SURCHARGES, INTERESTS AND PENALTIES MAY BE MADE. IN CASE OF FAILURE TO PAY THE BASIC REAL PROPERTY TAX OR ANY OTHER TAX LEVIED UNDER THE REAL PROPERTY TAXATION UPON THE EXPIRATION OF THE PERIODS AS PROVIDED IN **SECTION 250 ON PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAXES IN INSTALLMENTS AS PROVIDED IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE.** OR WHEN DUE, AS THE CASE MAY BE, SHALL SUBJECT THE TAXPAYER TO THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST AT THE RATE OF TWO (2%) PERCENT PER MONTH ON THE UNPAID AMOUNT OR A FRACTION THEREOF, UNTIL THE DELINQUENT TAX SHALL HAVE BEEN FULLY PAID: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT IN NO CASE SHALL THE TOTAL INTEREST ON THE UNPAID TAX OR PORTION THEREOF EXCEED THIRTY-SIX (36) MONTHS. FURTHER, AND UNLESS THE TAX, SURCHARGES AND PENALTIES ARE PAID BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF THE YEAR FOR WHICH THE TAX IS DUE EXCEPT WHEN THE NOTICE OF THE ASSESSMENT OR SPECIAL LEVY IS CONTESTED ADMINISTRATIVELY OR JUDICIALLY PURSUANT TO THE **PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 3, TITLE II, BOOK II OF THE CODE,** THE DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION, AND THE TITLE TO THE PROPERTY WILL BE VESTED IN THE PURCHASES, SUBJECT, HOWEVER, TO THE RIGHT OF THE DELINQUENT OWNER OF THE PROPERTY OR ANY PERSON HAVING LEGAL INTEREST THEREIN TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY WITHIN ONE (1) YEAR FROM THE DATE OF SALE.

PERSONAL PROPERTY MAY BE DISTRAINED TO EFFECT PAYMENT, AND/OR LEVY UPON THE REAL PROPERTIES OF THE DELINQUENT TAXPAYER TO SATISFY THE DELINQUENCY.

(Sgd.) **LIBERATO M. CARABEO**
ICO-CITY TREASURER

(PDI – Nov. 9, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
THIRD ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROJECT
Division of Eastern Samar
Borongan, Eastern Samar

INVITATION FOR BIDS

November 9, 2001
Loan No. PH-P184
IFB No. 22-02-2001

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Education (Dep Ed) has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in various currencies towards the financing of the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of School Furniture to Public Elementary Schools in the Division of Eastern Samar.
2. The Department of Education Division Project Implementation Support Unit (DPISU) through the Division Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of school furniture to public elementary schools in the Division of Eastern Samar.
3. For the purpose of this bid, eligible bidders shall be those who have experience in the supply and selling and distribution or delivery of similar types of materials to public elementary schools in remote areas in a developing country like the Philippines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the office of Division BAC with office address at DepEd, Division of Eastern Samar, Borongan, Eastern Samar, Tel. No. (055) 261-3162 or 261-2740.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting **November 9, 2001**, upon submission of letter of intent to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (PHP 1,000.00) exclusive of postage or courier cost. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check.
6. The provisions in the Instruction to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the JBIC Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Goods.
7. Bids must be delivered to the above office on or before 10:00 AM on **December 12, 2001**, and must be accompanied by a bid security of two percent (2%) of total bid price in the form of a bank guarantee, irrevocable letter of credit issued by a reputable bank located in the Purchaser's country or abroad, or cashier's or certified check.
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 10:00 AM on **December 12, 2001** at DepEd Division Office, Borongan, Eastern Samar.
9. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on **November 21, 2001**, 10:00 AM at the address indicated in paragraph 8.

(Sgd.) **NIÑA J. VILLALON, Ph.D.**
Chairman
Division Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)

(PDI – Nov. 9, 2001)

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PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY
PNOC Building VI, Energy Center
Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, M.M.
Tel. No.: 555-0293 / 845-0832

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY (PNOC) invites accredited Suppliers/Contractors to submit sealed bids for the following requirements:

IT Requirements	Qty.	Bid Deadline
CPU Upgrades	25 units	November 27, 2001
Integrated Smart Array Controller Module Memory for CISCO Vertical Mount Master Switch Digital Multimeter Tone Generator and Probe LAN Tester with Remote Unit	2 units 2 units 1 unit 1 unit 1 unit 1 unit	November 27, 2001
Computer / Software Books	14 pcs	November 27, 2001

Interested ACCREDITED parties may obtain bid forms upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per bid package from the PNOC-Property and Supply Management Division (PSMD) at the G/F of the PNOC Building.

Interested parties who are not yet accredited must first pass the pre-qualification process. Pre-qualification documents-checklist is available at the said address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00, which must be accomplished and submitted to PSMD on or before **November 16, 2001.** Failure to pre-qualify would render the concerned parties automatically disqualified from this bidding.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 10% of the total bid price but not to exceed ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00) secured from any one of PNOC's accredited bonding companies.

The PNOC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive formality therein or to accept such bids or to award any work that are considered most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. PEDRO A. AQUINO, JR.**
Senior Vice President
Legal, Admin. and Estate
Management Services

(PDI – Nov. 8 & 9, 2001)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites all authorized suppliers/dealers to participate in the bidding for the Purchase of Three (3) Units VHF Repeaters and Twenty-One (21) Units VHF Base Radios. The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

November 12-13, 2001 -	Issuance of List of Pre-qualification Requirements
November 20, 2001 -	Deadline for submission of pre-qualification documents
November 23 & 26, 2001 -	Issuance of bid documents
November 28, 2001 (10:00 AM) -	Pre-bidding conference
December 7, 2001	
(9:15-10:00 AM) -	Submission of bid proposals
(10:15 AM)	Opening of bid proposals

Pre-qualification forms and requirements can be secured from and submitted to PBAC Secretariat, ODAFA, 7th Floor, Matimyas Building, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. Bidding documents may likewise be secured from PBAC Secretariat and the same shall be issued to pre-qualified bidders upon payment of P2,000.00 non-refundable fee.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) **MICHAEL ANGELO G. PADERANGA**
Deputy Administrator and
Vice-Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – Nov. 9 & 12, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER
Baguio City

INVITATION TO BID

The Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center invites all DOH-Manila accredited suppliers for Medical Equipment to bid for the same at the Cobalt Building, BGHMC Auditorium, Baguio City.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **November 23, 2001,** Friday, 2:00 PM at the same venue for any clarifications. Opening of the Bids is scheduled on **November 29, 2001,** Thursday, at exactly 2:00 PM at the same venue. Late Bidders shall be disqualified.

Instructions to Bidders (BAC FORM A) and Official Bid Tender Form (BAC FORM B) can be availed of at the office of the Chief, Medical Professional Staff c/o Mrs. Ma. Teresa C. Fajardo, after payment in cash of P300.00 at the Cashier's Office at the main hospital building, from **November 19, 2001 to November 23, 2001** from 8:00 to 3:00 PM.

The BAC shall award the contracts to suppliers with the lowest calculated bids. The BGHMC reserves the right to waive any minor deviations in the bid tender documents which do not affect the substance and validity of the bids and reserves the right to accept the bid most advantageous to the government. The decision of the BAC is final.

Inquiries may be made with the BAC Secretariat, c/o Mrs. Teresa C. Fajardo at 442-62-30.

(Sgd.) **MANUEL V. FACTORA, M.D., MHA**
Medical Center Chief
BGHMC

(PDI – Nov. 9, 10 & 11, 2001)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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Bangko Sentral cuts interest rates

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE POLICY-MAKING Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday brought down by half-a-percentage point its overnight borrowing and lending rates to their lowest since July 1995.

The 11th reduction in the BSP's overnight rates to a total of 6.75 percentage points this year matched the 10th cut in US short-term interest rates the other day and brought the overnight borrowing and lending rates effective today to 8.25 percent and 10.5 percent.

Monetary authorities also brought back the tiering system that would effectively bring down further the central bank's overnight borrowing rate.

Effective today, bank deposits with the BSP of up to P5 billion will still enjoy a yield of 8.25 percent. However, deposits in excess of P5 billion up to P10 billion will earn only 6.75 percent, and placements above P10 billion will carry an interest of only 5.25 percent.

Analysts said the BSP move was done largely to benefit the national government since it would bring down the yields on treasury bills. A possible downside, they said, was that it could put pressure on an already volatile peso and eventually jack up interest rates in the future.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura acknowledged that the rate cut, which was higher than expected, could add pressure on the local currency "but only for a brief period."

He also raised the possibility of a further cut in the BSP's policy rates specially if the US Federal Reserve would cut its short-term interest rates by another half-a-percentage point in December from the current 2 percent.

He said the BSP cut should not have a large impact on inflation because the more inflationary factors such as oil prices and wages have been addressed.

Buenaventura said oil prices were clearly on a downtrend while the impact of the P30 daily increase in wages had been mitigated after authorities ordered that it be implemented in two installments.

The central bank chief said the lower overnight rates and the revival of the tiering scheme should push local investors to flock back to government securities auctions instead of parking their funds in the BSP's vaults.

The last time he checked, Buenaventura said deposits with the central bank reached about P50 billion although substantial funds have shifted to other instruments such as the retail treasury bonds and the upcoming dollar-hedge peso instruments.

A trader from a foreign bank noted that the central bank was obviously cooperating with the national government.

The Bureau of Treasury had rejected treasury bill offers for two straight weeks to prevent the government's borrowing rate—mainly the benchmark 91-day treasury bill yield—from creeping back to double-digit levels. Treasury bill rates track the central bank's overnight rates.

While Buenaventura explained that the central bank's cut should help companies cope with their loan obligations, he admitted that it would also benefit the national government. In return, the government is set to offer at least P5 billion in dollar-linked peso notes that should help prop up the peso.

"This is a mutually beneficial relationship. When there is prudent fiscal management, the BSP, autonomous as it is, is able to be accommodating and supportive of fiscal authorities," said the central bank governor.

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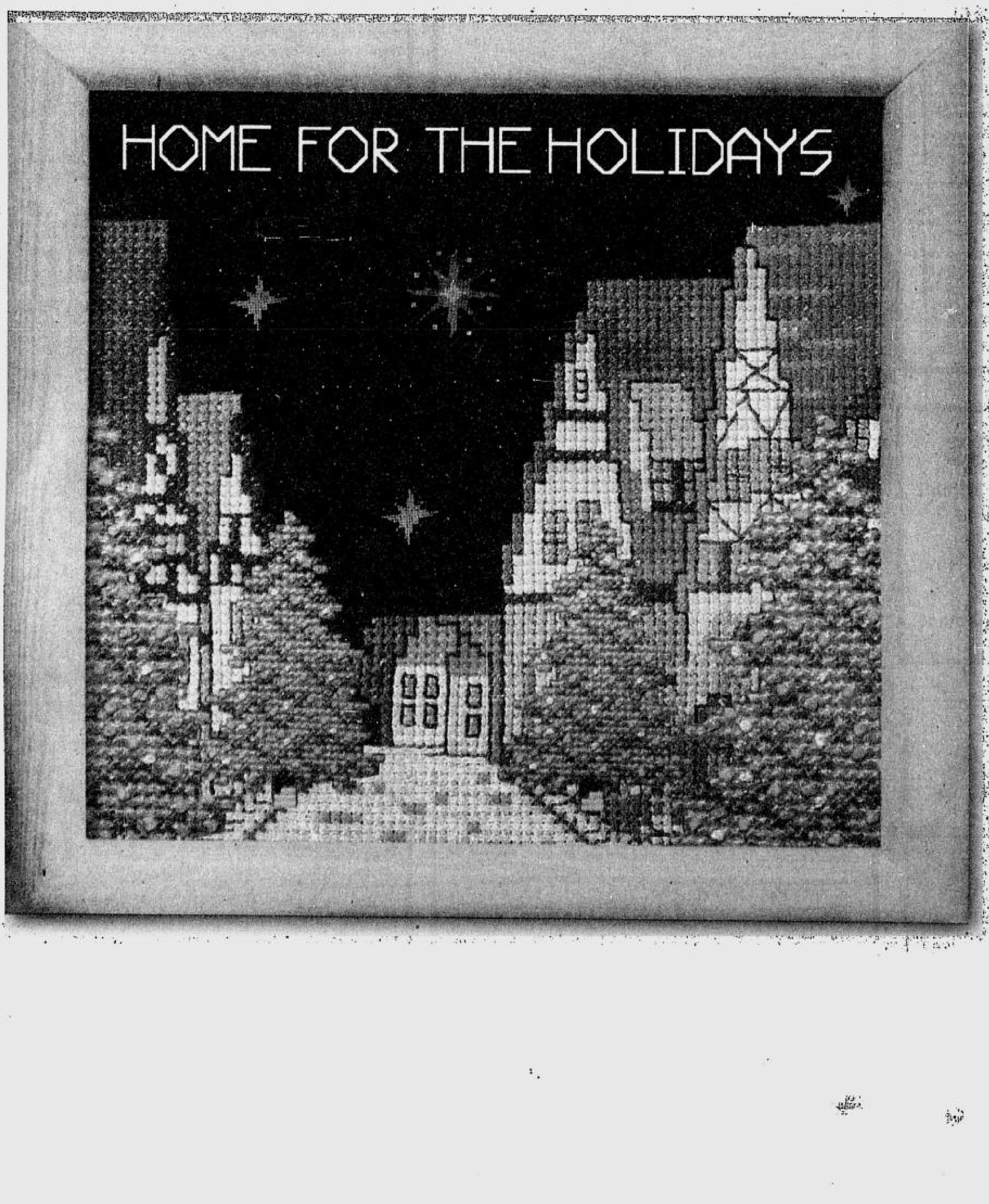

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BUSINESS*Friday*
MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

18-year-old brand finds face in lovely 24-year-old heiress

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

THE 18-year-old Charriol luxury brand wanted a young, feminine face to represent its new jewelry collection. It did not have to look far.

It found the perfect image in alluring Coralie Charriol, only daughter of Philippe Charriol, founder of the brand.

"My father wanted a feminine touch to the collection. He kept asking me what do the young wear," relates the 24-year-old designer, who arrived in Manila at the height of the six-hour blackout that hit Luzon.

Charriol opened its Coralie 18 carat Gold Collection in the Rockwell Mall to the public last Wednesday, confident that the pieces, price tagged at P24,500 to P164,500, each, will meet the expectations of the moneyed few in Manila and push them to buy despite a slumping economy.

As in the case of most designer items, a huge part of the price tag goes to the cost of owning a "name" or the brand.

Coralie says the trend in jewelry nowadays is to "brandize" it—to incorporate or use a brand's logo.

"Buyers want to go to a store and buy one with a name. That's the whole movement of every watchmaker—branded jewelry," she stresses.

18-YEAR-OLD/C3

ROMY HOMILLADA

CORALIE Charriol: Buyers want jewelry with a name.

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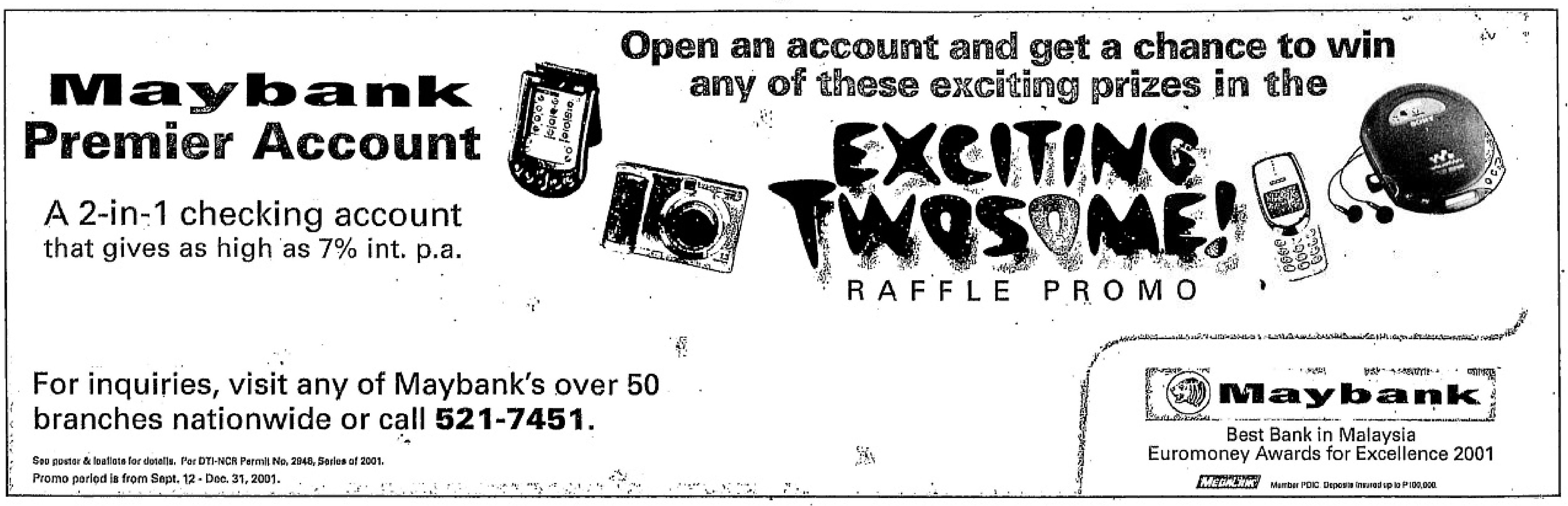
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When can BIR close businesses?

TAX-FILES

By Luna Mae A. Fulache
SGV & Co.

THE DAY-TO-DAY operations of a taxpayer plays a crucial part in the success of its business venture. A halt in operations can adversely affect its finances and send it to permanent closure. Thus, companies would vow to protect their businesses from being subjected to such suspension of operations from either internal or external factors.

It is therefore vital for businessmen to know what are the causes for suspensions and temporary closure of business which tax authorities can impose.

The Tax Code and Revenue Memorandum Order (No. 57-2000) state only four instances when such business operations could be temporarily suspended, as follows:

(1) Failure to issue receipts or invoices by a VAT-registered or registrable taxpayer;

(2) Failure to file a value-added tax return;

(3) Understatement of taxable sales or receipts by 30 percent or more of the correct amount thereof in the case of VAT-registered or registrable taxpayer; and

(4) Failure to register.

How long could the BIR temporarily close the establishment?

The Tax Code provides that the BIR could temporarily close the establishment for not less than five days and shall only be lifted upon compliance with whatever requirements prescribed by the commissioner in the closure order.

The power of the tax authorities to administratively issue a suspension order of business operations is one of the tax remedies of the government to aid in tax collection and also serves as a safeguard against arbitrary action. Tax remedies play an important role in taxation, from the standpoint of tax collection or for the purpose of enforcing a taxpayer's rights under the law. As a safeguard against arbitrary action by government authorities, it is incumbent for taxpayers to know the basic rules before such suspension and temporary closure could be imposed against their businesses.

Basis for suspension

What are the violations of the Tax Code which would render the taxpayer's business the subject of such suspension order?

These are violations of Sections 113, 114, 236, 237 and 238 of the Tax Code of 1997 shall be the grounds for such suspension orders.

Section 113 of the Tax Code mandates that a VAT-registered person shall issue an invoice or receipt for every sale made. It is incumbent that said invoice or receipt show the following information aside from what Section 237 mandates:

(1) A statement that the seller is a VAT-registered person, followed by his taxpayers identification number (TIN); and

(2) The total amount which the purchaser pays or is obligated to pay the seller with the indication that such amount includes the value-added tax.

Section 237 of the Tax Code on the other hand, specifies that duly registered receipts or sales or commercial invoices prepared at least in duplicate shall be issued for every sale or transfer of merchandise or for services rendered valued at P25 or more. The said invoices/receipts must show the date of transaction, quantity, unit cost and description or nature of the service. In cases, however, of sales amounting to P100 or more, or regardless of amount if the sale is made by a taxpayer liable to VAT to another person also liable to VAT, or where the receipt is issued to cover payments made for rentals, commissions, compensations or fees, the said receipts/invoices should show the name, business style, if any and address of the purchaser. In cases where the purchaser is VAT-registered, the invoice or receipt must further show the TIN of the purchaser.

Thus, not only failure to issue invoices or receipts will be a ground for suspension but also failure to comply with information required on such invoices or receipts as enumerated above will likewise be a ground for a suspension order by the BIR on the company's business operations.

In addition, Section 114 of the Tax Code as implemented by Revenue Regulations No. 7-95 requires any VAT taxpayer to file a quarterly VAT return within 25 days following the close of each calendar quarter. They are required to pay the VAT on a monthly basis using the monthly VAT declaration form within 10 days after the end of each moth. With respect to taxpayers who availed of the electronic filing and payment system (EFPS), the deadline for electronically filing the monthly VAT declaration and paying the tax due thereon via the EFPS shall be five days later than the deadline set above.

Failure by taxpayers to comply with the filing of VAT return shall likewise be a valid ground for a suspension or temporary closure order.

Section 236 of the Tax Code also provides for the registration requirements of every person subject to internal revenue tax.

When should a person appropriately register with the BIR?

It is incumbent for one to register one within 10 days from date of employment; or (2) on or before the commencement of business; or (3) before payment of any tax due; or (4) upon filing of a return, statement or declaration required under the Tax Code.

A person maintaining a head office, branch or facility shall register with the revenue district officer having jurisdiction over the head office, branch or facility. The term facility may include but not limited to sales outlets, places of production, warehouses or storage places. An annual registration fee of P500 shall be paid for every separate or distinct establishment or place of business, including facility types where transactions occur upon registration and every year thereafter on or before the last day of January.

Thus, failure by a business establishment to register one of its branches notwithstanding the registration of its head office may still be an appropriate ground for the tax authorities to suspend the operations of such unregistered branch.

Section 238 of the Tax Code, on the other hand provides, for the requirements before commercial invoices or receipts shall be validly printed. An authority to print must first be obtained from the BIR before any printer can print such invoices or receipts. It is mandated that such receipts or invoices be printed or serially numbered and shall show the following, among other things, the name, business style, TIN and business address of the person or entity to use the same.

The printer is required to maintain a logbook/register of taxpayers who availed of their printing services. The logbook must contain the following information: (1) Names, TIN of the person for whom the receipts/invoices were printed; and (2) Number of booklets, number of set per booklet, number of copies per set and serial numbers of the receipts or invoices in each booklet. Failure to comply with this invoice/receipts printing requirement shall also be a valid ground for suspension of one's business.

Suspension requirements

Violations alone of the foregoing provisions will not automatically render a suspension order from the BIR. Certain procedural requirements must first be complied with to avoid undue suspension of one's business operations.

Revenue Memorandum Order (RMO) 57-2000 requires that a conduct of surveillance and performance of surveillance activities for possible violations of the foregoing provisions may only be made based on a validly issued mission order signed by the concerned authorized revenue official. At least two implementing officers composed of revenue officers, intelligence officers and special investigators assigned in the investigating office shall be authorized to conduct surveillance activities on identified business establishments based on a validly issued mission order. The head of the investigating office shall make a recommendation to the regional director or assistant commissioner (Acir) for enforcement service or Acir for large taxpayers service, as the case may be, to suspend or temporarily close the business. Upon receipt of the report, the concerned regional director or Acir shall require the taxpayer to refute the apprehension and to explain under oath within 48 hours why he should not be imposed with suspension of business or temporary closure of his establishment.

Upon submission of the explanation by the taxpayer or if none is submitted on or before the deadline, the regional director or Acir shall indorse the docket of the case to the Acir for legal service on whether to pursue the suspension order. If the evidence warrants, the Acir for legal service shall prepare the corresponding five-day VAT compliance notice for signature by the commissioner or his duly authorized representative. If the taxpayer fails to comply with the terms of the five-day VAT compliance notice, the corresponding closure order shall be prepared for execution. However, if in the meantime the taxpayer corrects the violation, the implementation of the closure order shall be desisted.

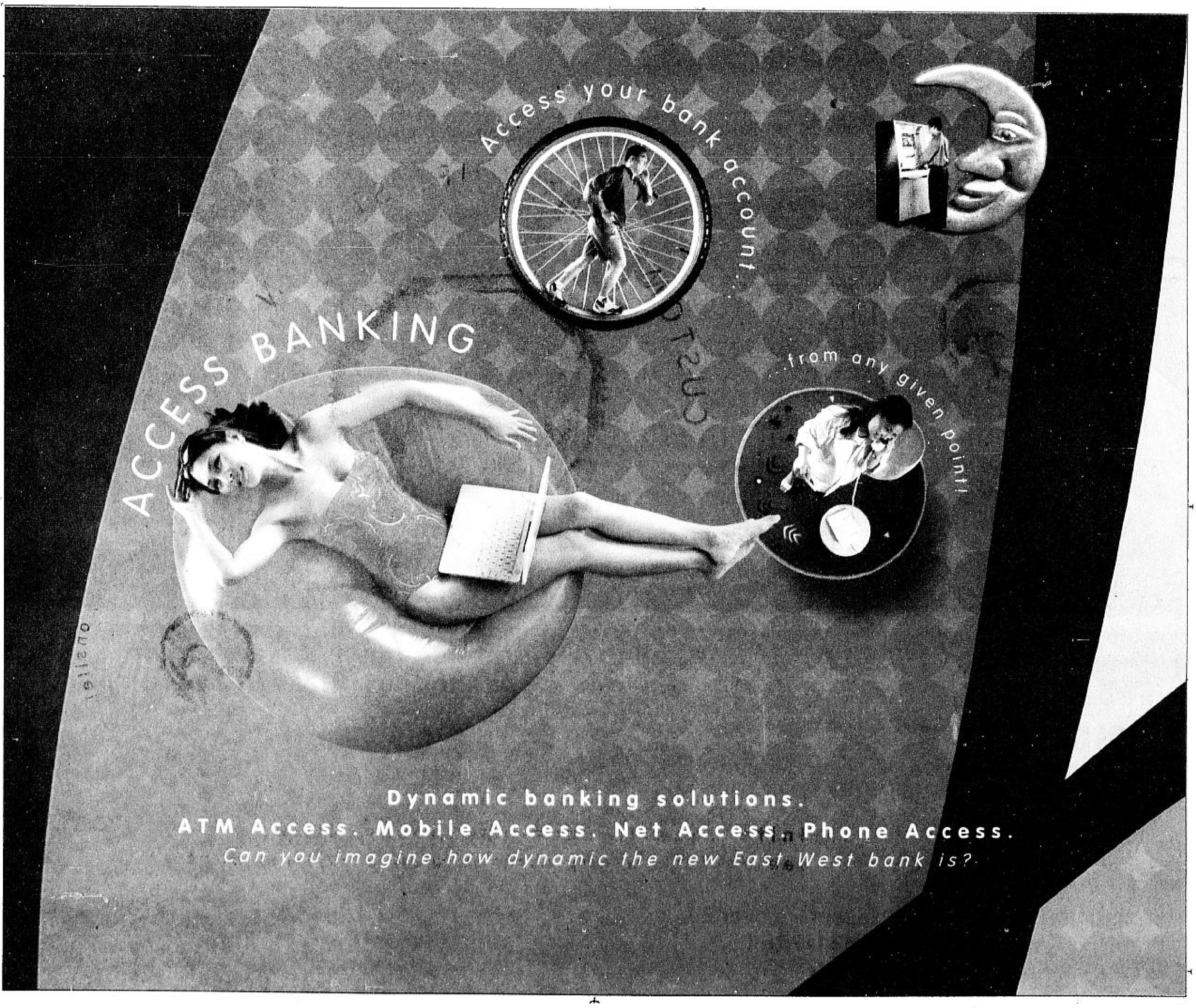
The execution of the closure order shall consist of the physical closing of the doors or other means of ingress unto the establishment and the sealing thereof with the BIR official seal. The closure order shall not be less than five days and shall continue until violation is rectified and the commissioner or his duly authorized representative issues a written order for the rescission or lifting thereof.

In what cases will the lifting or rescission of the closure order be made?

It shall be done in cases when (1) there has been a subsequent filing or amendment of returns with the payment of the tax inclusive of statutory penalties; (2) subsequent registration with the payment of the corresponding compromise penalties; (3) payment of deficiency taxes inclusive of penalties corresponding to sales where no invoices/receipts have been issued; and (4) payment of deficiency taxes inclusive of penalties corresponding to the understatement of taxable sales or receipts. The lifting or rescission order shall not release the taxpayer from the compliance requirements and from penalties prescribed by the Tax Code.

To avoid unnecessary suspension or temporary closure of one's business which might spell out great financial losses for the company, one must be wary of its obligations to comply certain provisions of the Tax Code. Knowledge, on the other hand, of the provisions and guidelines for such suspension necessarily protects the taxpayers from undue and arbitrary enforcement of such administrative power of the BIR. Thus, if the suspension or temporary closure order is not based on violations of the above cited provisos, then, the same may not be validly issued. Further, in case the procedural requirements are not complied with, then, the taxpayer may also raise the same in challenging the temporary closure order.

(For comments and suggestions, please send an e-mail to sgvmail@Andersen WO)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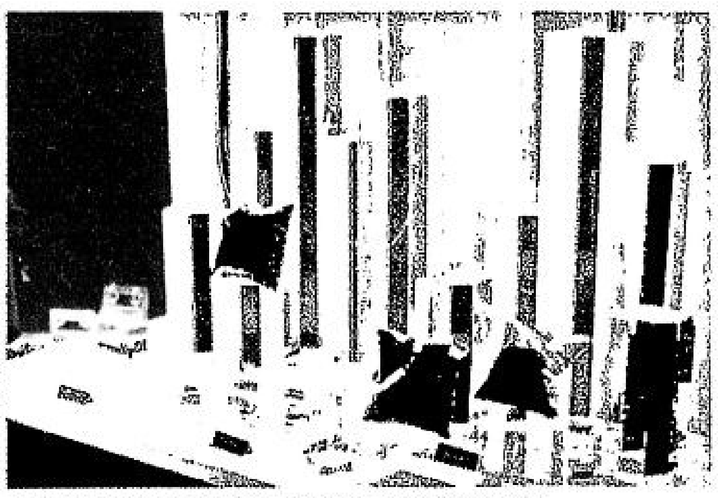


PRICE tags range from P24,500 to P164,500.

18-year-old brand . . .

(From page C1)

The luxury brand's confidence in making a successful debut is based on robust sales of Philippe Charriol items in the country. Growth this year has even increased by about 40 to 50 percent compared with last year's.

She says that sales of Charriol items in Manila, which include watches, bags, jewelry, have been growing by 20 to 30 percent during the past three years.

Charriol actually started its Philippine operations nearly 10 years ago, but it was only during the last five years that the sales picked up.

Charriol attributes the increase to their expansion of product lines that apparently caught the fancy of the discriminating and moneyed Filipino buyer.

"Maybe the bubble is not that big in Manila. Maybe we created brand awareness through advertising, promotions.. . We do other things," she says.

Coralie has become the image model of Charriol as it aggressively pursues its target market—the upper middle class.

Coralie says this is why Charriol will never give up on the Japanese and US markets despite their dismal performance the past year since the two largest economies in the world also have the biggest middle class.

She says they are going after the 25-year-olds to the 60s.

"Our designs go from the youthful to the more classic," she explains.

Unlike some of the luxury brands, which have tried to reach other markets, Coralie says they will stick to their niche.

"Big brands have reached everybody. They have reached the mass market, causing it to be common—everybody has it," she stresses.

Charriol figures show that as of July 2000, it has sold 950,000 watches, 1.5 million pieces of jewelry, 480,000 belts, 380,000 bags and 350,000 pens.

Net sales in 1999 reached $93 million.

And Coralie boasts that they never have to put their items on sale.

Other luxury brands like Ferragamo, Gucci, Christian Dior occasionally hold sales. Other than Charriol, Louis Vuitton also does not put its items on sale.

Coralie quotes that Philippe Charriol's motto is "it is better to be a big fish in a small pond than a small fish in a big pond."

. But she says her father's ultimate goal for the brand is to be an entrenched player in the markets where it is present.

"In all the markets we are in already, we want to penetrate deeper and grow roots in each market, not just the surface," she says.

Charriol wants to do this by investing in advertising and promotions, and events.

Being an avid car racer, Philippe Charriol has moved his brand into sponsoring sports events and working further on a "SuperSports" image.

Philippe was with the Les Must de Cartier group for seven years from 1975 to 1982. He even became president of Les Must de Cartier Far East, then of the Les Must de Cartier Inc., USA.

Philippe, however, got tired of managing another person's company so he struck out on his own. He gave up the apartments, the private plane and the cars and put his energy into launching his own brand.

The Philippe Charriol brand started with its world-famous cable watch that was eventually imitated by other brands.

In 1999, the brand name was changed to simply Charriol and a plum color was adopted for the brand emblem. A new international campaign was launched to showcase the new look of the house of Charriol.

Two years ago, while Coralie still in design school, Philippe saw her drawings for a line of bags required in her design class.

"He asked if he can include it in his collection," Coralie recalls, adding that she had to leave school in Tufts University in Boston, for two weeks and fly to Hong Kong to promote the line.

The businessman in Philippe is obvious from the way he was able to grow the brand in the highly competitive designers' market in just 18 years.

He is a business and politics graduate of the University of Aix-en Provence and has a lot to teach his daughter.

Coralie says she is still in the process of learning from her father.

Although she tried to work with another company—she trained briefly in the communications department of Cartier in Paris—because "everybody says you have to learn somewhere else," she says she would rather work for her father.

Taking the 360°route to sell

By Amelita R. Remo

IF THERE is one secret of success, it is to be able to see something from everyone's view of it.

This is how Ogilvy & Mather, a marketing and communications firm, builds its brands. The method is called 360° brand stewardship.

The 360° brand stewardship, which has been practiced for decades, was only given that label in 1999. It is Ogilvy's way of understanding and nurturing brands for its clients and fully appreciating its significance in the lives of the people who use them.

"We define brands in a 360° way because we believe that brand impression is formed at every moment it touches the consumer. They experience brands as a whole and not through particular channels or media," says Bob Hekkelman, group managing director for Ogilvy & Mather Philippines.

HEKKELMAN

Chairperson of O&M worldwide, Shelly Lazarus, says, "A brand is not just what you say it is, the brand is the totality of what the consumer experiences. From quality to taste, to retail environment, to corporate reputation and public relations, to word-of-mouth … to prejudices and attitudes. Scraps and straws that add up to the most valuable asset a company has: a 360° brand."

The 360° way is delivered by looking at all aspects of the brand, identifying the key issues and challenges to know which areas need change or improvement. One has too see the brand as a totality in order to come up with the core idea it should focus on.

This big idea is an unexpected combination of different thoughts, which puts a particular thing in a new and involving context.

Tim Isaac, the vice chair of O&M in the Asia Pacific region, explains that this big idea is based on the real insight and experience of the consumers but recognizing it before anyone does. This idea has to be built, distilled, identified and given an icon-kind of look before feeding it back to the people.

However, for this idea to be truly effective, it needs to be applied in all aspects of the brand by making use of various communication disciplines. Through this, the brand is not only improved at its strongest or weakest point, but rather, it is improved as a whole.

For instance, Ogilvy has in-house specialist companies, which cater to the different needs of a brand in all key disciplines.

Ogilvy Advertising provides a full service agency from idea to production, media and strategic planning as well as research facilities and simple AV productions.

Ogilvy Public Relations addresses the image and goodwill equity of the brand by strengthening its credibility with target audiences. Its services include internal communications, marketing PR, crisis management/media training and public affairs.

Customer Relations Management (CRM) is handled by Ogilvy One, which aims to build client sales durably by building trust, loyalty and good relationships. Its mission is to grow clients' customer equity in volume, value and good will.

As its name implies, Ogilvy Action is mainly concerned with special events and on-premise activities such as concerts, roadshows, exhibits and product launches.

Together, these in-house specialist companies help improve the brand in terms of its quality, packaging, image and exposure. This is how Ogilvy applies the 360° way for their brands.

This 360° brand stewardship also proves to be practical and favorable in handling brands given the current trends in the market today, especially in light of the economic situation in the country.

According to Isaac, "the general trends nowadays is not even thinking about just advertising or just PR, but looking more at the overall communications of a brand."

Hekkelman adds, "360° brands are better prepared and can cope better in tough times because the brand is taken as a totality and hence, all its aspects are properly addressed, making it ready for any drastic change in the market."

The 360° way addresses all the needs of a brand whether immediate or not, giving it an edge over others in recessional times. Also, given that one can perceive a particular brand through different kinds of medium, it is an advantage that all areas of a brand are improved. So what advertising has caught up with is that it has to go hand in hand with other disciplines such as public relations, for it to be more effective.

This is especially true nowadays since research shows that a simple television advertising, for instance, does not cut it anymore.

Moreover, the 360° way also comes in handy when an economic crisis hits a country.

Isaac explains that any economic crisis affects their business in that it depresses revenues and makes it harder to make profit. They don't lose clients in the sense that they go to other agencies but rather they don't spend as much as they used to for their services.

Brand stewardship, however, takes advantage of any crisis as it forces one to think smarter. Whereas in good times, one can simply do the conventional and still get satisfactory returns, in difficult times, one is rather forced to innovate.

The 360° technique is helpful in looking for ways and means to boost a brand. By looking at all aspects of the brand, one would be able to think of more unique messages and find more cost-effective ways of getting the message across.

However, one of the difficulties that Ogilvy faces with its 360° way is that the client sometimes, tends to be more product-focused.

Isaac says it's hard to maintain the balance between what the client wants and what they think is best for the product. While on the one hand, Ogilvy tries to extend its specialty and expertise, it is also restricted in simply doing what the client asks and striking a right balance between the two is very difficult.

"The best way to serve our client is by having a partnership, a two-way traffic where the clients have to trust their brands to us and we reciprocate by listening to what they want to understand and what their business challenges really are," Isaac explains.

This enables Ogilvy to serve its clients well without being subservient and be assertive without being arrogant.

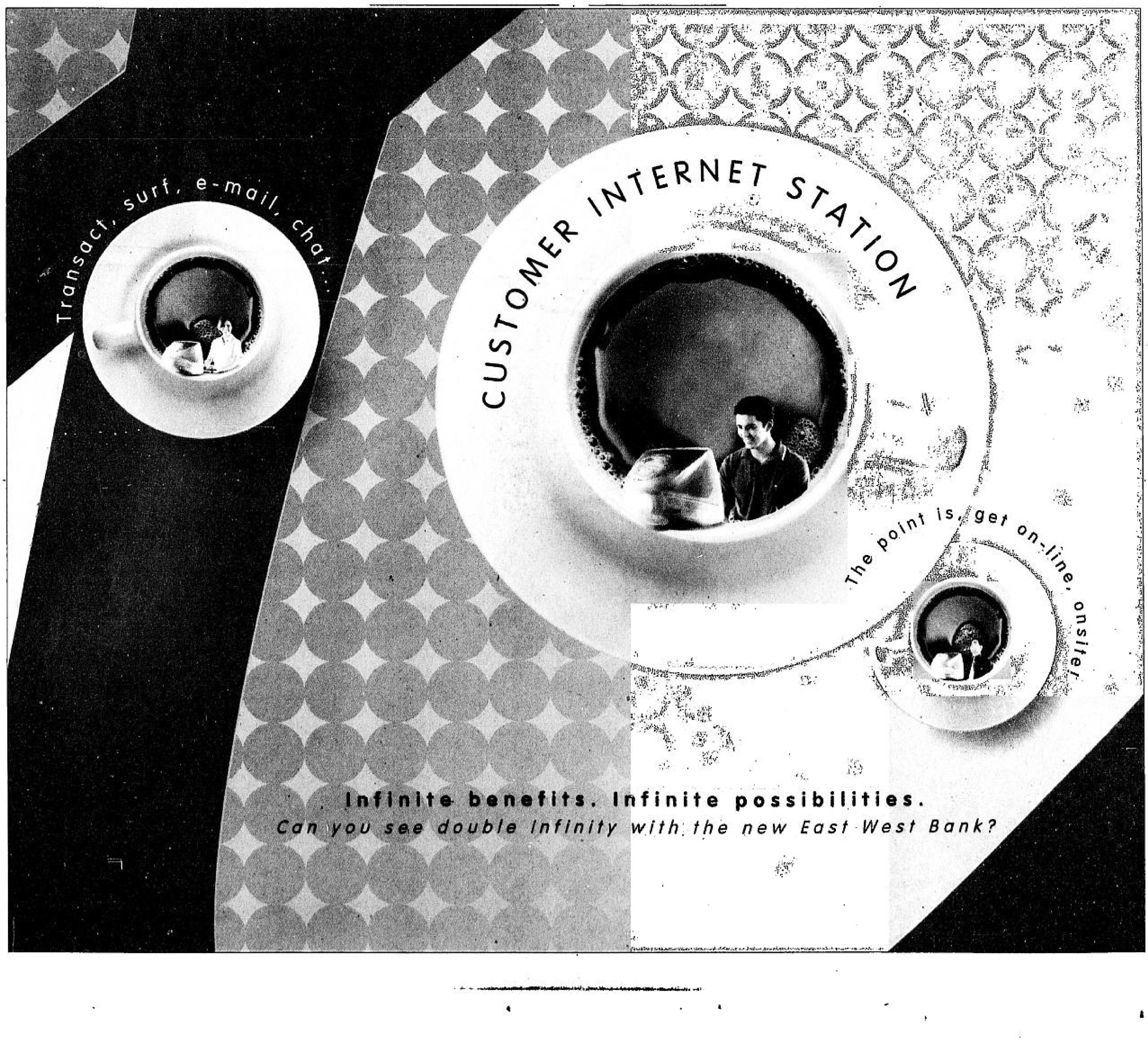
Hekkelman also notes the difficulty in finding a unique position of a product from others because brands come close to another. He explains that one has to go beyond the product and look at various possible angles to sell it, "perhaps, an emotional selling point."

"One has to think, who are we talking to? What are they thinking? Rather than just thinking, what message can we bombard them with? That's how 360° way is at work. It's all about getting inside the heads of the target audience and thinking how they are using media," Isaac adds.

Despite these difficulties, Ogilvy manages to stand out from the rest given their performance in the Philippines for the past 10 years, being the most awarded in creatives and the biggest network in the Asia Pacific region.

Some of its local awards include being No. 1 in the 1996 Creative Guild and in the 1997 Ad Congress and was awarded the 1997 Creative Agency of the Year award by the 4As. International awards include being finalist for the national campaign: Heritage Conservation Society print campaign in the Clio Awards 2000 and a finalist for Poster Category: The Economist "pencils" poster in the London International Advertising Awards 2000.

Hekkelman attributes this outstanding performance to Ogilvy's 360° brand stewardship in approaching brand issues and communication problems.



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Engravers thrive on Iloilo street

By Hazel P. Villa
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Since the early '90s, the part of E. Lopez Street that leads to downtown Iloilo City gets animated from October 1 up to All Saints Day.

More than eight small shops of *lapida* (gravestone or memorial stone) engravers are busy toiling on marble slabs that came all the way from Romblon in the Tagalog Region.

This business that caters not only to the memory of the dead but also to other marble works and services is dominated by natives of Romblon who arrived in this city in the late 1980s and 1990s.

Since then, they have made E. Lopez St. a residential and business area.

Lapida engravers range from the likes of AMS *Lapida* Engraving that do business in a 2 by 3 1/2-meter shack up to the pioneering and established ED Melendres Enterprises housed in a medium-sized building.

"Lapida engraving sent my children to school," said Alma Salvador who manages AMS *Lapida* Engraving.

A day before All Saints' Day, her four sons aged 18 to 23, chisel or paint designs and letters on marble slabs measuring 16 by 20 inches, while Alma and her husband Cresencio entertain customers.

Alma said that starting Oct. 20, they average four to five customers a day who pay about P400 to P500 for *lapida* engraving.

As of Oct. 31, Alma said her sons have engraved about 180 slabs of marble.

Depending on the agreement, customers can have their *lapidas* made in three hours the fastest or will have to wait for a day or two on the average.

The Salvadors first came to Iloilo City in 1985 from Romblon selling marble. It was only in 1995 that they set up their lapida engraving business on E. Lopez Street when some of their buyers closed shop.

When the lean season from April and August hits, Alma said they would be happy to earn P300 a day from assorted marble work.

Most of the *lapida* engravers on E. Lopez Street have to be up on their toes all the time because they squat close to the street curb. They pay rent to building owners who allow them use of what little space is left available—most of them occupying the pavement supposedly for pedestrian use.

"They can make us leave anytime but it doesn't matter as long as we can set up shop anywhere on E. Lopez St. because people are used to us doing business here," said Alma in Hiligaynon.

All *lapida* makers on E. Lopez St. conform to the designs made by Bert Roldan who used to be employed by E.D Melendres Enterprises, one of the pioneer *lapida* engravers that first set up shop in 1978.

THIS BUSINESS that caters not only to the memory of the dead but also to other marble works and services is dominated by natives of Romblon who arrived in this city in the late 1980s and 1990s.

E.D Melendres Enterprises, now operated by Romblon native Elmer Melendres after taking the reins from his mother Zenaida, is the only surviving pioneer in the engraving and marble business.

The two others, also from Romblon, closed shop in the mid 1990's when imported and cheaper tiles started to make their mark.

From the 1980s to the early 1990s, Elmer said his shop workers could finish as many as 300 *lapidas* during peak season. They even have to "import" engravers from Romblon just to accommodate the demand.

It was also at this time that marble was extensively used for buildings because of its elegance and durability.

However, from 1992 to the present, E.D Melendres Enterprises would be happy to engrave and sell 100 *lapidas* during peak season.

"The *lapida* engraving business became saturated after some of our workers put up their own shops," said Elmer, a civil engineering graduate.

The competition in the 1990s was so intense that the *lapida* engravers started to bicker among themselves, plunging prices and endangering their businesses.

"The No. 1 problem is setting a stable price for engraving. We formed an association of Romblon engravers and agreed on the same rates but some did not follow these, so we lost confidence in each other," said Elmer.

The current set-up is advantageous for smaller shops but a loss for the more established ones like E.D Melendres that put in bigger investments.

To recoup losses, Elmer concentrated on other aspects of the marble business such as marble installation for homes and buildings, making mortar and pestle (*almires*) as well as marble novelty items.

E.D Melendres has installed marble floors, walls and kitchen counters for several residences and establishments in Iloilo and has a more extensive and varied supply of marble.

E.D Melendres sells four types of marble: Romblon, Bulacan, Mindoro and Italian.

Of the local variety, Romblon Golden White is the best seller, while Bulacan's Light Beige attracts homeowners. Italy's Verde Alphi, though more expensive, appeals to big establishment owners and homeowners alike.

Granite, according to Elmer, is one of the latest craze in buildings that started in 1995. Granite is stronger and more expensive than marble but has the same application for buildings. E.D Melendres' granite comes from Italy, China and Pakistan.

"The marble business is very capital intensive," said Elmer, adding that were it not for sentimental reasons and hopes for a better business, he would have closed shop a long time ago.

One of the reasons is the low demand for marble.

"We used to sell about 1000 square meters worth of marble, but now we can hardly dispose of 200 square meters. Now you know why other pioneers had to close shop," said Elmer.

The marble deposits in Romblon are the second largest in a single area outside of the famous Carrara, Italy, where sculptors get their supply, said Elmer.

Elmer added that the volume of Romblon marble is substantial enough and of good quality that it can even compete abroad.

He also claims that Romblon has a distinct market because novelties can be made out of its quality marble.

"Good marble can be sculpted and delicate sculptures can be turned into competitive novelties—otherwise, this one would break," said Elmer, showing this correspondent a small and fragile white swan sculpted from marble.

"The government should finance the marble industry as well as market it," said Elmer.

Meantime, the lapida engravers in E. Lopez St. enjoy their post-Halloween earnings and trust that their business in memory of the dead would serve them for life.

US home builders brace for slowdown

WASHINGTON—Business has been good for a long time for Greig Altieri, who builds luxury homes in newly developed suburbs between Washington and Baltimore—the kind two-career couples spend $400,000 to $800,000 to buy.

But like many others in his industry, he's bracing for the fat years to come to an end.

Altieri's Columbia, Maryland firm—Altieri Homes—together with a partner company, builds roughly 150 homes a year and posts between $35 million and $40 million in sales.

"We're going to have a correction in the housing market in the next six months," he said matter-of-factly.

Altieri's pessimism stems from growing unemployment, rising home values and mounting debt among his clients. So far, the housing market has remained relatively stable, helped by declining mortgage rates as the Federal Reserve eased credit nine times this year, with a 10th discount rate cut expected Tuesday.

But Altieri is taking a cautious approach, with so much bad news weighing on the economy.

"We're not buying a whole lot of new high-end projects, because I'm not bullish on carrying those through a down cycle," he said. "We're not going to stop doing what we're doing, but we're going to be careful about how much land we inventory."

Slowing interest

Until recently, it was a boom time in housing. But home builders began experiencing a slowdown over the summer and now, in the aftermath of Sept. 11 attacks, they're seeing conditions deteriorate further.

Jeff Shinkman, whose Denver firm JLS Construction builds custom homes and additions along the Colorado Front Range of the Rocky Mountains, said: "I always felt the bubble wasn't going to burst, but a lot of air was coming out. After Sept. 11, a heck of a lot more air was going to come out."

With the 30-year mortgage rate at historic lows—the national average was 6.56 percent last week—many builders are still doing comfortable business and are confident they will have work even if the economy falls into recession.

But many builders say they have noticed waning interest in new projects, particularly for high-end properties.

Few buyers who have already chosen a home or arranged financing are backing out, builders say. However, builders are concerned about an emerging reluctance among buyers to launch or follow through on the early stages of home purchases.

"People that tended to cancel were the people who had most recently signed a sales contract," said Bruce Gross, chief financial officer for Lennar Corp.

The last two years have brought record business to Farooq Ansari, owner of Ansari Builders Inc., in Westborough, Massachusetts, between Worcester and Boston.

But after years of having to play catch-up, just trying to build the homes he has already sold, he expects that next year the balance will tip the other way, forcing him to begin building homes before he has sold them.

National sales trends down

The reversal started slowly but has gathered speed since the attacks on symbols of US financial and military power.

For a long time, even as the broader economy began to soften, housing contributed to the nation's economic growth.

Economists expect that to change, with the sector becoming a drag on growth in the last three months of the year.

In September, existing home sales fell 11.7 percent, while new home sales slipped 1.4 percent. Ground breaking for new homes rose 1.7 percent in the month before last, but permits, an indicator of builder confidence, dropped 3 percent to their lowest level in almost four years.

During recessions, housing typically lags the rebound in the wider economy by about a year, said Altieri. "At the end of the cycle, we've got to collect orders. At the beginning of the cycle, people have already bought," he said.

Builders say they are adapting to a changing economic climate with flexible financing and shifts into new areas like remodeling work to insulate themselves against an anticipated period of turbulence.

Tom Budzinski of TJB Homes Inc. in Ham Lake, Minn., said he plans to gear up the remodeling side of his company to respond to consumer demand for home additions as available lots dwindle in the Twin Cities area.

Altieri said his company is trying to tap into outlying but less developed areas in Pennsylvania and North Carolina to expand business.

"One thing we did see this year more than previous years, the buyers were not as qualified when it came to getting the mortgages," he said. "Our mortgage people had to be a little more creative in putting things together."

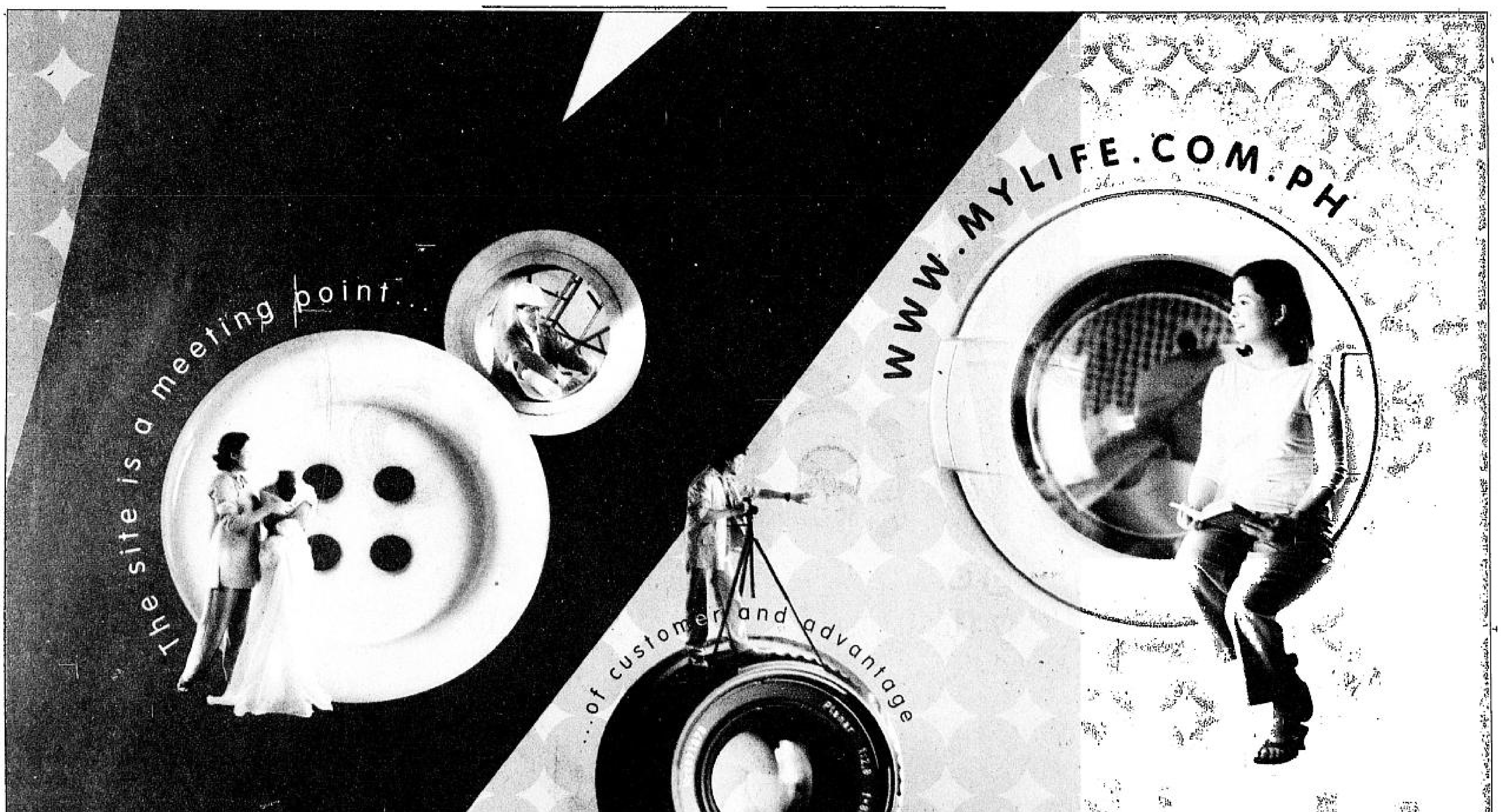
Those buyers had credit record blemishes or had trouble scraping together a down payment, said Budzinski, who said he expects a record year despite the economic slowdown.

'Working with them'

Bob Murphy, of the Murphy Building Co. in Everett, Washington, said a couple who bought a home from him this month was nervous about their jobs and about selling their old house.

"I'm working with them," he said. "I'm giving them some time after closing, extending the closing date or giving them more time to sell. There's some fear, but our buyers still have a desire to move up and buy our homes."

But builders reported that starter homes continue to sell well. John Howard, owner of John Howard Homes in Mobile, Alabama, said none of his customers have backed out of contracts since one cancellation in August after a buyer lost his job. *Reuters*



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YIELDS HIGHER GROWTH

Cleaning up makes sense

By Vic Milan

ONCE maligned as sources of river pollution and fish kills, alcohol distilleries in Nasugbu and Lian, Batangas, are now hailed as agricultural heroes by sugarcane farmers.

Distillery effluents that used to find their way to rivers, depleting the waters of the oxygen needed to sustain marine life, now go back to the same fields they came from to provide nutrients for another sugarcane crop.

Wastes of the alcohol distilling process (from sugar molasses), the treated slops, are now distributed free of charge to farmers who attest to the effectiveness of the organic liquid fertilizer, increasing their sugar yields by as much as 40 percent.

Mang Ente Guerrero of Malaruhatan in Lian was among the first to allow Absolut Chemicals and a team from the UP Los Banos National Institute of Molecular Biology and Technology (Biotech) to spray his field with the liquid fertilizer.

He says his sugar production increased from the usual 100 piculs to 145. A second-growth crop (ratoon) after this netted him 135 piculs.

Brgy. Capt. Eduardo Ednaco of Caretonan in Calatagan, Batangas stood virtually dwarfed by the lush and green cane field he cultivates off the highway in Brgy. Talisay. "*Malaki po ang aking pasasalamat sa* Condis (Consolidated Distillers of the Far East) *sa mahalagang tulong na nabigay nila sa akin at nabigyan ako ng* liquid fertilizer *pitong buwan na ngayon.*" (I am grateful to Condis for giving me liquid fertilizer seven months ago.)

EDUARDO Ednaco of Caretonan, Calatagan, is dwarfed by sugarcane plants fertilized with treated alcohol distillery slops. He looks forward to a big harvest timed for the December milling season.

Kapitan Ednaco pointed to another plot that had not been treated. The sugar cane plants were not as tall nor the leaves as green. He looks forward to a bigger harvest from his treated plants in two months.

It will be recalled that the business of producing alcohol for the needs of beverage, pharmaceutical and other companies had become synonymous with pollution on the complaints of fishpond owners in Pampanga.

In Batangas, distilleries were issued cease-and-desist orders by the DENR three years ago on complaints from fisher folk in Barangay San Diego in Lian. Subsequent meetings between the distilleries and DENR officials resulted in a serious study by a big technical group from UP Los Baños of distillery effluents as organic liquid fertilizer for sugarcane. The rest, it might be said, is environmental history.

Today, the once controversial distillery wastes are "black gold" to countless sugarcane farmers like Mang Ente and Eduardo Ednaco who attest to the efficacy of treated distillery slops in increasing their income—at lesser production costs because they no longer need to spend for chemical fertilizers as they had been doing for years before there was a liquid fertilizer program.

The only problem now facing the distilleries is how to satisfy the demand of cane farmers, some of whom are resorting to bribing tanker drivers just to be given priority in their delivery and field spraying schedules.

A report submitted by Biotech states, "distillery effluent contains mineral matter, sugars, proteins, organic acids and vitamins that are necessary for plant growth. In contrast, inorganic fertilizers such as ammonium sulfate supply only nitrogen and sulfur, while urea supplies only nitrogen. The effluent can totally supplant or supplement/complement mineral fertilizers without negative effects on soil properties."

The Deptartment of Science and Technology and the Municipal Council of Nasugbu, Batangas have likewise made written endorsements of the project.

Constant monitoring of the water quality of deep wells close to treated sugarcane fields have also shown that the fears of water table contamination raised earlier by non-believers are unfounded.

"The success of the liquid fertilizer program pioneered by the alcohol distilleries in Batangas is a significant page in the history of the relatively young alcohol distilling industry that is a P5.5-billion business and accounts for P2.2 billion in annual taxes contributed to government coffers," said Dr. Sonny Bautista, speaking for the Center for Alcohol Research & Development (CARD) Foundation of which he is the current president.

The transformation of the alcohol distillery industry from villain to hero makes for one positive environmental story: Wastes from sugar production go around full circle to help produce even more sugar.

For now, it is costing the distilleries millions of pesos monthly to deliver the treated slops to the farmers. But so great is the demand that farmers are indicating willingness to share in the cost of delivery.

This Batangas experience of the alcohol distillery industry has demonstrated that it is indeed good business to be environmental.

(Sugarcane planters interested in knowing more about the liquid organic fertilization program may get in touch with Consolidated Distillers at 867-8875 and Gerry Tee of Absolut Chemicals at 893-3555.)

Farming a good venture, and gov't has to support it

By Romulo O. Ponte
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SAN FELIX, VICTORIA, Laguna—Multiawarded agriculturist Sesinado Matibag Masaho, 68, had a good job overseas but left it in 1982 to concentrate on his family-owned farm and practice a sustainable, environment-friendly agriculture.

Masaho had worked in the government for 10 years, trained at the International Rice Research Institute in 1967, worked for three years in a privately owned farm in Bukidnon and five years as overseas worker in the Solomon Islands.

He and wife Lourdez, 69, supervised 28 hectares of family-owned irrigated rice farm and 18 hectares of lands planted to fruit trees like lanzones, rambutan and durian in barangay San Felix here and in another barrio in a nearby town.

The farm was giving him abundant harvest and income during the earlier years of cultivation until bad weather disrupted the erstwhile steady productions.

While productions recovered smoothly in the ensuing years, Masaho found out in 1987 that they still need some more financial help to augment their outputs.

During that year, the couple borrowed $8,000 dollars from their American son-in-law Charles.

Masaho said the production and income from the farm was quite promising in the '80s and early '90s, but suddenly the Asian economic recession struck the country in 1996 onward, which sharply caused agri-business profitability to nosedive.

Masaho said income has not yet recovered enough to enable him to pay back his debts to his eldest son (P250,000) and to his son-in-law ($8,000). Nonetheless, the couple expressed happiness that their farm had helped much in the education of their three sons and a daughter.

Aside from Alex, 44, the aeronautic engineer, another son Joseph, 40, finished Civil Engineer at Mapua University; Rey, 33, finished Bachelor of Science in Economics at Letran College and daughter Maria Elena, wife of Charles, finished a course in Education at the University of Sto. Tomas.

Charles himself holds a doctorate in Bachelor of Science in Music from UST and is employed at the International Labor Organization (ILO) based in the USA.

MATIBAG Masaho, 68, had a good job overseas but left it in 1982 to concentrate on his family-owned farm and practice a sustainable, environment-friendly agriculture.

However, the UPLB (University of the Philippines Los Baños) graduate of 1957 assured the Inquirer that despite the recession, he can ensure that agribusiness will become profitable and appealing to agricultural producers if the government, in the first place, encourages people to patronize local products instead of flooding the market with imported agricultural products rather than those locally available.

He also suggested to his fellow farmers that to prepare for contingencies, they have to plant substitute food products to ensure regular income and food security in spite of some occurrences of turbulent climatic conditions.

These substitutes could be: cassava, sweet potato, banana, ube, gabe and other root crops.

He also advised them to plant fruit trees, like: lanzones, rambutans, durian and others. These other sources of incomes have really helped the Masahos overcome the hardships when rice industry was at its weakest, he admitted.

Aside from being an advocate for a pro-Filipino oriented agricultural economy, Masaho is a vigorous and vocal promoter of "sustainable agriculture," meaning, for instance, he abhors any use of insecticides, pesticides or any chemical poisoning in his farm.

He also recommends composting as a method of fertilization over using commercial fertilizers, which would render the soil barren after years of continued use.

Masaho believes in the necessity of maintaining the ecological balance. "It is myth and false to say that the use of chemical fertilizer and insecticides guarantees good harvest. The other way around is true," he said.

"Using biological control as a method of controlling pests, with more use of organic fertilizer than commercial ones, ensures abundant production," claimed Masaho.

Owing to his gallant advocacy and openness in what he is doing to preserve nature while enhancing abundant harvest, Masaho was recognized by his alma mater, the UPLB, as a "Distinguished Alumnus Award for Sustainable Agriculture."

He was also given the "Model Farm Family" award in 1998 by the late Victoria Mayor Felix Rebong together with the Municipal Council.

Masaho was also recognized as an "Outstanding Farmer of Laguna" in 1988 by the Laguna Provincial Department of Agriculture.

Both local and international scientists have visited this simple but astute farmer in Laguna, apparently to see for themselves how viable and realistic Masaho's unique way of practicing agriculture was.

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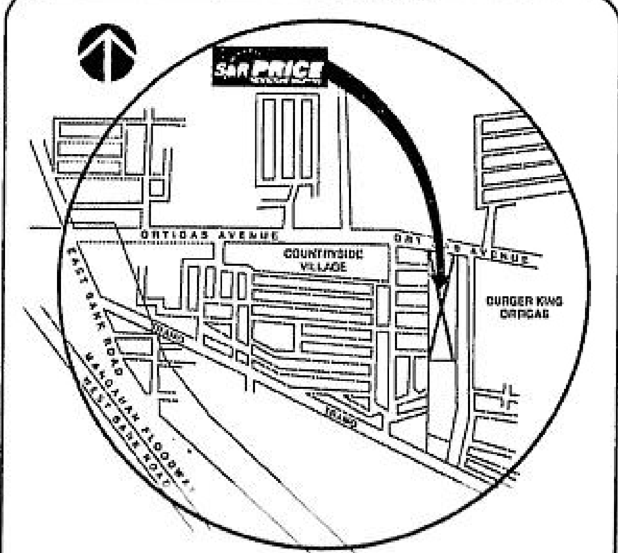
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Events firm offers SMEs chance to sell in big shows

BY ANNE LUISA E. VILLARICO

MOST events management contractors do not regard the exhibition industry as a way of introducing new concepts and showcasing cutting-edge construction products to attract serious buyers.

But for Joseph L. Ang, founder and organizer of Worldbex Services International (WSI), expositions should be more than just a trade show.

WSI is a registered events management organization that showcases the latest innovations in construction both here and abroad.

Expositions, according to Ang, should be held not only to seek buying support from international visitors, traders and distributors, but also to help small-scale entrepreneurs and the underprivileged.

Ang has been joining expositions since 1992 and he observes that in terms of progress, the exhibition industry here lags behind that of other countries.

"There is no competition, no changes. Some exhibitors get in (exposition) just for *pakikisama*," Ang says. "It didn't serve the real purpose of an exhibitor."

This prompted him to establish WSI on 1996.

"Many thought it was impossible to organize exhibition business in this country. Others said there was no way to improve it anymore," Ang says.

WSI stepped up to the challenge and mounted the first Philippine World Building and Construction and Exposition (Worldbex) in 1996, which was held at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Competition then started in the exhibitions business.

Worldbex visitors are composed of industry and trade professionals, consultants, property developers, government representatives, direct buyers and end-users.

In six years, WSI has established stable business relations and links with institutions, particularly in the construction industry, as well as government agencies such as the Departments of Trade and Industry and Foreign Affairs, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines and the US Commercial Services.

Worldbex lines up over a thousand creative and innovative advancements in the field of architecture, interior design, engineering and information technology from countries across the globe in annual international exposition.

"The best among the six years is (year) 2001," Ang says. This was despite the impeachment trial, the ouster of then President Joseph Estrada.

Ang relates that despite the immense challenges, WSI was still able to fill up the halls of WTC through an intensive marketing strategy.

Ang says it must have been divine intervention because there was a time when many of their clients asked to cancel their booth reservations because of economic crisis.

This Christmas, Ang wants to share his blessings through his latest project, the First World Bazaar Festival 2002, with the entire proceeds of this bazaar to be given to charity.

This weeklong event will open on the peak of the Christmas season from December 19-25, from 2 p.m. to 12 a.m. Shoppers will be treated to "super *tiangges*" in a 20,000-square-meter-wide, centralized air-conditioned shopping area that will occupy the halls of the World Trade Center, where thousands of goods and Christmas products will be sold at very reasonable prices.

Though there are brand names that will showcase their products in the bazaar like Sari-Sari, Penshoppe and Cinderella, stall owners are usually comprised of small-scale entrepreneurs like office workers who grouped together to sell items from toys to home and office furnishings. "Joining the World Bazaar is in a way helping beneficiaries," Ang stresses.

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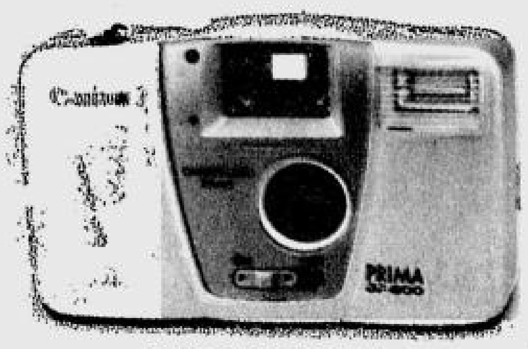

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Shopping this year lacks holiday spirit

By Dennis M. Arroyo

MANY companies endure periods of low sales through the early part of the year, but they know that they can always count on the holiday season to help them make their sales targets.

But the story has changed over the past few years given the slowing global and local economies. Filipinos are not expected to shop as much as they used to. They may be inclined to shop, but just don't have enough money to do it.

Not the time to shop

The declining appetite for shopping was seen since last year, according to a survey conducted by the Social Weather Station.

The SWS Dec. 8-17, 2000 national survey asked:

"If you think of the prices of products today and your ability to buy, would you say that these days it is a (Very Good, Somewhat Good, Somewhat Bad, Very Bad) time to shop?"

Very Good	1%
Somewhat Good	17
Somewhat Bad	43
Very Bad	39

That makes a total of 18 percent for Good and 82 percent for Bad. The margin for this was the percentage for Good minus the percentage for Bad, for -64 percentage points. The margins grew worse the lower the class: -53 for class ABC, -62 for class D, and -73 for class E.

The December 2000 margin of -64 was unchanged from the reading in September 2000 of -64.

Class ABC comprises the elite and the middle class. Class D are the poor or the *masa,* and class E are the destitute or the very poor. According to the July 2000 poll, the Filipino population was distributed as follows: 13 percent for class ABC, 66 percent for class D, and 21 percent for class E.

The SWS survey indicated that Filipinos do not have enough funds left for shopping because the bulk of their income went to basic household expenses.

The SWS July 2000 national poll yielded these data on households with the following amenities. ***(See table 1)***

TABLE 1

Electricity	84%
Own dwelling	81
Television	74
Running water	53
Refrigerator	52
Own residential land	52
Videotape player	34
Washing machine	29
Telephone	26
Flush toilet	15
Car	13
Airconditioner	8
Credit card	7
Personal computer	6
Water heater	5

Because class D made up the bulk of the Filipino people, their home amenities data should be presented as well: ***(See table 2)***

TABLE 2

Electricity	88%
Own dwelling	81
Television	79
Running water	53
Refrigerator	54
Own residential land	51
Videotape player	33
Washing machine	25
Telephone	22
Flush toilet	10
Car	8
Airconditioner	2
Credit card	3
Personal computer	3
Water heater	3

Customer service

The SWS July 2000 survey inquired on customer service, covering both government and private offices.

Interviewers asked: "Have you experienced or received excellent service (*"kapuri-puring serbisyo"* in the original Tagalog questionnaire) from a government office these past six months or not?" The question was repeated for offices *"mula sa isang pribadong kumpanya* (from a private company)."

The ratios were identical: 9 percent got excellent service from a government service and another 9 percent from a private sector office.

The ratio declined the lower the class. For service from a government agency, the ratios were 20 percent for ABC, 9 percent for D, and 4 percent for E. For service from a private company, the ratios were 17 percent for ABC, 10 percent for D, and 3 percent for E.

Quality products

The July 2000 poll asked, "What is your main consideration in buying a product?"

Its price	36%
Its quality	59
Trusted recommendation	5

The same survey posed the test statement: "I can tolerate a poor quality product as long as it is cheap." The results were:

Agree	38%
Disagree	42
Net agree	-4

The lower the class, the more the respondent tolerated poor quality for the sake of price. The net agreement scores were -24 for class ABC, -3 for class D, and +5 for class E.

What about giving feedback on quality products? The SWS July 2000 poll asked, "When you are satisfied with the quality of a product you bought, how often do you go back to the seller to say so?" The responses were:

Always	26%
Often	33
Sometimes	34
Never	8

Returning goods

The July 2000 survey probed into the behavior of consumers who bought unsatisfactory products. The poll asked:

"If you are not satisfied with the quality of a product you bought, what would be the most probable thing you would do?"

Have the store replace it with something else of equal value	39%
Complain to the store and demand a refund	22
Inform others of the product's poor quality	10
Complain to the appropriate government office	6
Not do anything	22
Complain to the store but will not return the product	1

(* answer volunteered by the respondents)

RP-made goods

In the same survey, respondents were asked to compare Philippine-made products to those of other countries.

That is, were Philippine-made goods Better, Just as Good, or Not as Good as those of certain countries? Respondents added the category Don't Know.

Philippine-made goods were perceived as Not as Good compared with the products of the following nations. The Not as Good ratios were:

USA	72%
Japan	61
Germany	59

On the other hand, the views were more evenly distributed for these countries:

Taiwan		
Philippine goods are Better		39%
Just as Good	27	
Not as Good	28	
Don't know	6	
China		
Philippine goods are Better		32%
Just as Good	28	
Not as Good	34	
Don't know	7	
Thailand		
Philippine goods are Better		32%
Just as Good	27	
Not as Good	29	
Don't know	11	

The survey asked, "In your opinion, how many large Filipino companies really aim for quality products and services?" The replies:

All	27%
Most	53
Few	18
None	2

The results were similar for small enterprises.

All told, even if there is little appetite for shopping, quality is a significant concern in the Philippine market. There is a critical mass of consumers who will demand quality and will complain if they don't get it.

Ripple effects from attacks begin to take toll on companies

NEW YORK—From a drop in film use at tourist sites to declining copy paper purchases in corporate offices, the ripple effects of Sept. 11 are reaching into the far corners of the economy.

Many businesses reported an impact, direct or indirect, from the airliner hijack attacks on New York and Washington in their quarterly earnings statements issued last month.

While some consequences, like the toll on airlines, already were well reported, others are emerging for the first time or in unexpected ways, such as shrinking sales in toilet paper and tissue to hotels. There have been some beneficiaries, too, like canned soup, video rentals and florist companies.

"In July, I wasn't expecting that 747s would be flying into buildings or that we would be worried about biological warfare. A lot has changed," said Tom Siebel, chief executive of Siebel Systems Inc., after the software maker's profits dove 48 percent in the third quarter.

In some cases, companies were already struggling in a slowing economy and may be rushing to blame the attacks for poor performance. But for others, a dramatic shift in consumer behavior after Sept. 11 could well be providing an unexpected boon—or bane—for corporate profits.

"Use your imagination as to what doesn't get bought and what doesn't get done," said David Orr, chief economist for Wachovia Securities. "It can have a big effect on the economy."

Eastman Kodak Co., the world's largest photography company, reported a 77-percent drop in third-quarter earnings. It also lowered fourth-quarter guidance for the critical holiday picture-taking season to no more than 15 cents per share, well below analysts' estimates of about 46 cents.

The reason? Flat film sales as the terror attacks dampens travel by tourists, who usually take pictures on their trips. Kodak's US consumer business dropped 13 percent for the third quarter, leading to net earnings of $96 million, or 33 cents a share.

Also hit hard were forest products makers International Paper and Weyerhaeuser, which reported deeper losses after corporate layoffs and reduced advertising cut into paper production.

Weyerhaeuser's profits fell 54 percent to $91 million, or 41 cents per share, and International Paper, the No. 1 paper producer, had a net loss of $275 million in the third quarter.

"There's been less demand for magazines and catalogs, and as people were laid off, we had empty offices and people no longer at their computers and photocopy machines, so clearly that has had an effect," said Joshua L. Zaret, analyst for ABN Amro Inc. in New York.

It's not all bad news.

Campbell Soup Co. acknowledged financial stumbles in its canned soup division before Sept. 11 as consumers-on-the-go ran toward seemingly easier-to-prepare items. But last week it said earnings this quarter will be better than expected, after Americans stocked up on canned goods after the attacks.

Campbell's soup, a popular staple in US homes during World War II and the Cold War, said it expects earnings per share between 40 cents and 42 cents, up from 33 to 36 cents, when it reports results on Nov. 14.

Blockbuster Inc., the world's largest video rental chain, said it expects a long-term earnings boost as uneasy consumers stay home more. The Dallas-based company had a 92-percent rise in third-quarter earnings, mostly from strong DVD sales.

"As people enjoy time and security at home, we think it's a lasting trend," said John Antioco, chair and chief executive. "Clearly, people's behavior has been adjusted, and this will translate to continued affection for video (rentals)."

And aircrafter makers General Dynamics and Bombardier predict strong business jet sales and, in some cases, are boosting production despite the economic slowdown. Their bet: Executives in the long term will prefer travel by private jet, given the uncertainty of security via commercial air travel.

Other ripple effects:

- Kimberly-Clark Corp. had quarterly profit fall for the first time in three years. It attributed the decline in part to lower demand for tissues and toilet paper in hotels, airports and office buildings, which makes up 15 percent of company sales.

The maker of Huggies diapers, Kleenex tissue and Scott toilet paper reported net income of $419.4 million, or 79 cents a share, in the third quarter, against $440.4 million, or 81 cents a share, a year earlier.

- In contrast, 1-800-Flowers.com reported solid earnings and forecasted even stronger growth. The company, which picked up 455,000 new customers during the usually slow summer season, cited an uptick in flower sales following the attacks.

"We believe we are well positioned as our customers . . . continue (to) express themselves and connect with all of the important people in their lives—family, friends and business acquaintances—particularly now as we enter the important holiday season," said CEO Jim McCann. *AP*

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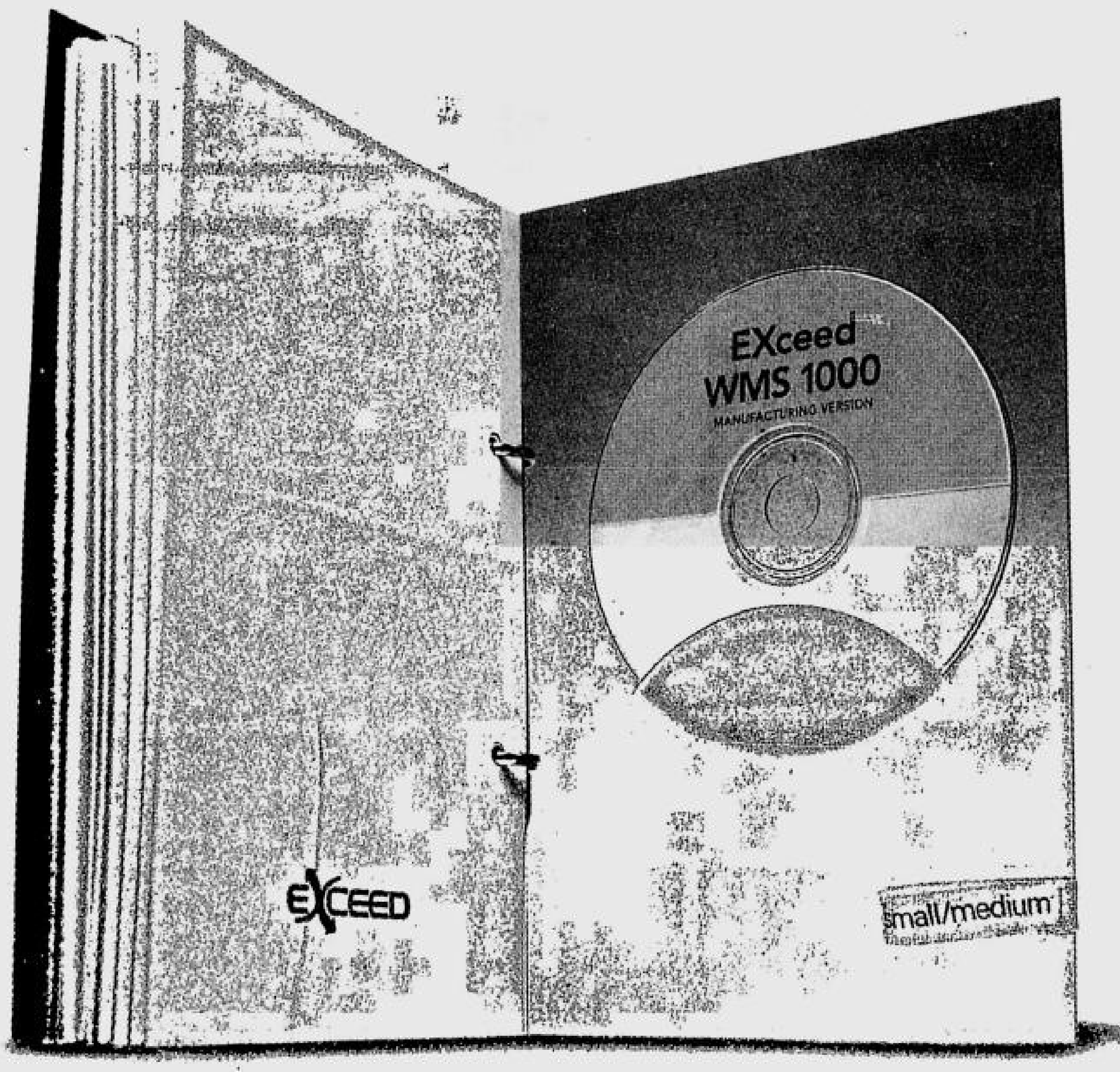

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The gospel of self-worth according to Mike George

The internationally renowned life coach shares a few exercises in valuing yourself, discovering your virtues and creating affirmations

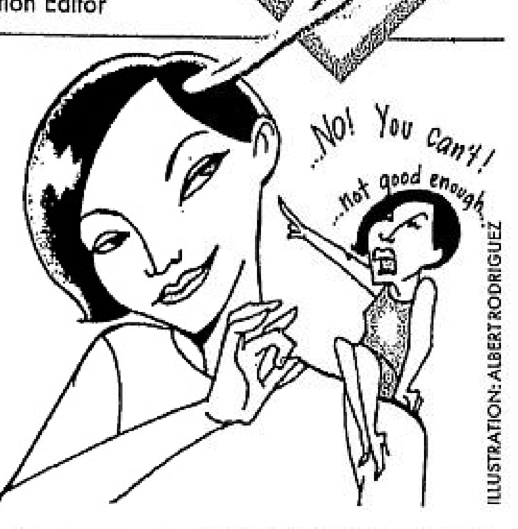
By Marge C. Enriquez

GOING through life successfully is like drifting down the river. Although your body feels the water, it doesn't absorb it. In life, if you're a contented person swimming alongside others; you are aware of other people but you are not sensitive to them. You know that nobody can divert you from your destiny because you're firmly grounded on your self-esteem.

Why?

Purity, love, peace, happiness and truth are the core qualities of life. They serve as your worth or value.

"Self-esteem is connected to our beliefs about ourselves, our values and how we have brought them to life. At the spiritual level, values become virtues. Our value to God and to others is according to how much we've discovered about our own virtues; how we have brought them back into our lives and how we are sharing them with others. All our relationships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THE GOSPEL/ p.D2

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Find out if he or she is the right person for you. Key in **PLAY SD**. To answer the questions, press **REPLY** and key in the no. <1,2,3, or 4> corresponding to your choice. Press SEND.	This test tells you if you're soul mates or not. Key in **PLAY SD2**. To answer the questions, press **REPLY** and key in the no. <1,2,3, or 4> corresponding to your choice. Press SEND.	Falling in love with a pal? Find out if there's something between the two of you. Key in **PLAY SD3**. To answer the questions, press **REPLY** and key in the no. <1,2,3, or 4> corresponding to your choice. Press SEND.	Get a regular dose of quiz questions with this game. Simply key in **CT ON**. To answer the questions, key in **CT** <A,B,C, or D> corresponding to your choice. Press SEND.

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The gospel of self-worth according to Mike George

(From page D1)

involve energy exchange, but the most profound form of giving is that which is unconditional: we measure neither what we give out nor what we receive," said Mike George.

London-based management consultant, life coach and lecturer Mike George was in the Philippines recently to hold a series of lectures on self-management, stress management and self-esteem.

The aim of building one's self-esteem or self-worth is to generate the light of our own spirit rather than seeing ourselves in other's eyes.

Experiencing qualities

"Self-esteem is the knowledge and the awareness of my uniqueness, my beauty and value. It is also carrying that awareness into my interactions with you so there is real strength and stability." George underscored the importance of experiencing these three qualities in us:

Uniqueness. There's no one else like you. The moment you compare yourself with another, you forget that you are unique. You may share similarities with people that you admire, but you can never be like them. Whenever you compare yourself with somebody else, how often does your self-esteem go up?

"It doesn't. If it does, it's probably ego," said George.

The first skill is to never compare yourself with anyone. Transform comparison to appreciation of the other person. "In comparing, I'm wanting to take something from the person that I worship. In appreciation, I'm reversing from wanting to take into giving," said George.

Beauty. The beauty myth encourages you to be physically attractive and makes you forget that you are spiritually beautiful. The glossies show models and so-called icons looking perfect. They make you want to aspire to dress up like the icons and to possess status symbols which, in turn, lay claim to happiness, albeit temporary.

"True beauty comes from inside. The foundation of true beauty is to be grounded in truth. My life is to bring beauty out of everything I do," said George.

Value. Relationships determine the quality of life. Knowing your worth depends on your sense of context of your role in the world. The more you share your energy in a natural act of giving, the more blessings you receive from others. This is your real worth and this energizes you.

Trapdoors

George theorized that majority of people had low self-esteem but they were clever in disguising it while others denied it. Low self-esteem is attributed to believing in what authority figures, such as parents, say about us.

"The voices from the past form the tapestry of your self-image. If they are repeated, the tapestry gets thicker. This is how your core tendencies are created," said George.

These lead to a few trapdoors. Basing your worth on the respect you get from others is false.

"There will be a moment when they withdraw or don't give regard. That's when I get shaky. If I base my self-confidence on talents and skills, I won't have real self-esteem. There might be a situation where these won't be needed. Develop the skills to respond appropriately to a certain situation. People who calibrate their worth on possessions or position have false pride. One day the universe will take it away. That breaks their self-esteem. There is no strength to handle the change. A person with low-self esteem will say 'I don't think I'll be able to do it. A person with high self-esteem will say 'I don't know how to do this, but I can learn this.'"

How much do you value yourself? Here's an exercise.

1. Write down the names of a work colleague, family member and friend.

2. Under those three names, identify three positive qualities of their character.

3. Write down the positive qualities of your best friend, you.

4. Write the quality your best friend (you) is hiding from the world.

It is easier to appreciate the qualities of others than yours because you have cultivated the habit of looking at others. You have been conditioned to believe that looking at yourself and appreciating your qualities result in ego.

"It's only when you get attached to those qualities and identify them that ego is formed. There's a fine line between knowing and expressing them and being attached to them," clarified George.

Life should be about the rediscovery of one's qualities and expressing them.

"If you don't express them, these qualities are just a theory. Therefore you're not getting empowered. It doesn't make you know your value to others unless you express them," he said.

Virtue in action

Here's an exercise in discovering your virtues:

1. Write down a creative (not a spectator) activity that you enjoy.

2. What are the qualities required to cultivate this activity?

Chances are the activity you chose is a metaphor for life. The qualities that emerge when you engage in this activity are the ways you express love.

"Love is virtue in action. Virtue is love in action. In the expression of these qualities, I'm expressing my inner beauty. The foundation of that is the love I bring into the world," said George.

The most common blockage to self-esteem is the sentence "I can't."

"For so long I've been believing that 'I'm not able' or 'I am not good enough,' etc.' This makes up the tapestry of our self-belief," said George.

George recommended creating affirmations such as "'I am a dedicated individual who sees the task through completion.' 'I am patient and can wait for the fruit of my effort to appear in my life.' 'I constantly appreciate the virtues of others.' 'I am a gentle and loving individual in every relationship that I have.'"

The affirmations should begin with "I am" not "I will be" nor "I would like to be." Once you've written them down, keep reminding yourself that this is who you are.

George cautioned against the little self-defeating voice inside. For instance, if you set out to be patient and peaceful, a little voice will cry, "No you're not!" Keep empowering the affirmations by experiencing them until they become virtues that eclipse the old beliefs.

1. With a partner, write down five affirmations based on the qualities you've identified in the previous exercise about your favorite activity. Use action words.

2. Sign the affirmations "With love from (your name)" and give it to your partner. Get your partner's affirmations.

3. Repeat the affirmations several times a day until they are impressed on your consciousness.

"Magic will happen. What you impress on your consciousness is what you project out into the world. What you project out there will attract situations, people, objects, ideas that will correspond to the affirmations in your mind. Watch out for the things that you're holding and transmitting. It's like two-way: you empower positive truths about yourself and you're dis-empowering the old beliefs. This is change," said George.

Challenges

The three challenges to self-esteem are called AOL.

Approval. We have the tendency of seeking approval of others. We are always looking for validation before we feel okay about ourselves. Our goal is ultimately to be free of the need of the approval of others.

Opinion. When you hear criticism, whether it is said to your face or behind your back, how stable are you? If you're bothered, then your self-esteem is not grounded on the truth about yourself.

Loss. Whether it's the death of a loved one, money or job, loss can affect people. "The death of someone very close is a test of how stable I am deep inside. My brothers were grieving when my mother died. There's always the trace of guilt and you ask yourself, 'Did I do enough? Did I tell her I love her before she went?' To me, the soul has been liberated. The pain is over. The soul is off for the next adventure," said George.

Asked how does one handle feedback from others, George replied that it's a matter of perception.

"Everything people say to me doesn't matter regardless of how they say it. It's not what they say. It's what I do to what they say. If you criticize me, I have a choice. I can either take it as an attack or I can transform that information into understanding. First, maybe you're in pain so you're attacking me. Second, maybe there's truth in it. Let me look and see."

You can use the retrospective situation. Replay the feedback in your mind. Accept the mistake, forgive yourself and learn from it.

George said that the health of all our relationships with others depended on how we felt about ourselves. "When we cultivate the awareness of our spirit, the garden we inhabit with others will bloom of its own accord."

The Brahma Kumaris meditation centers offer courses in self-esteem. Call 890-7960 or 922-9231; Baguio (074) 445-5935; Cebu (032) 254-5975, Davao (082) 221-9561 or Naga (054) 473-0622.

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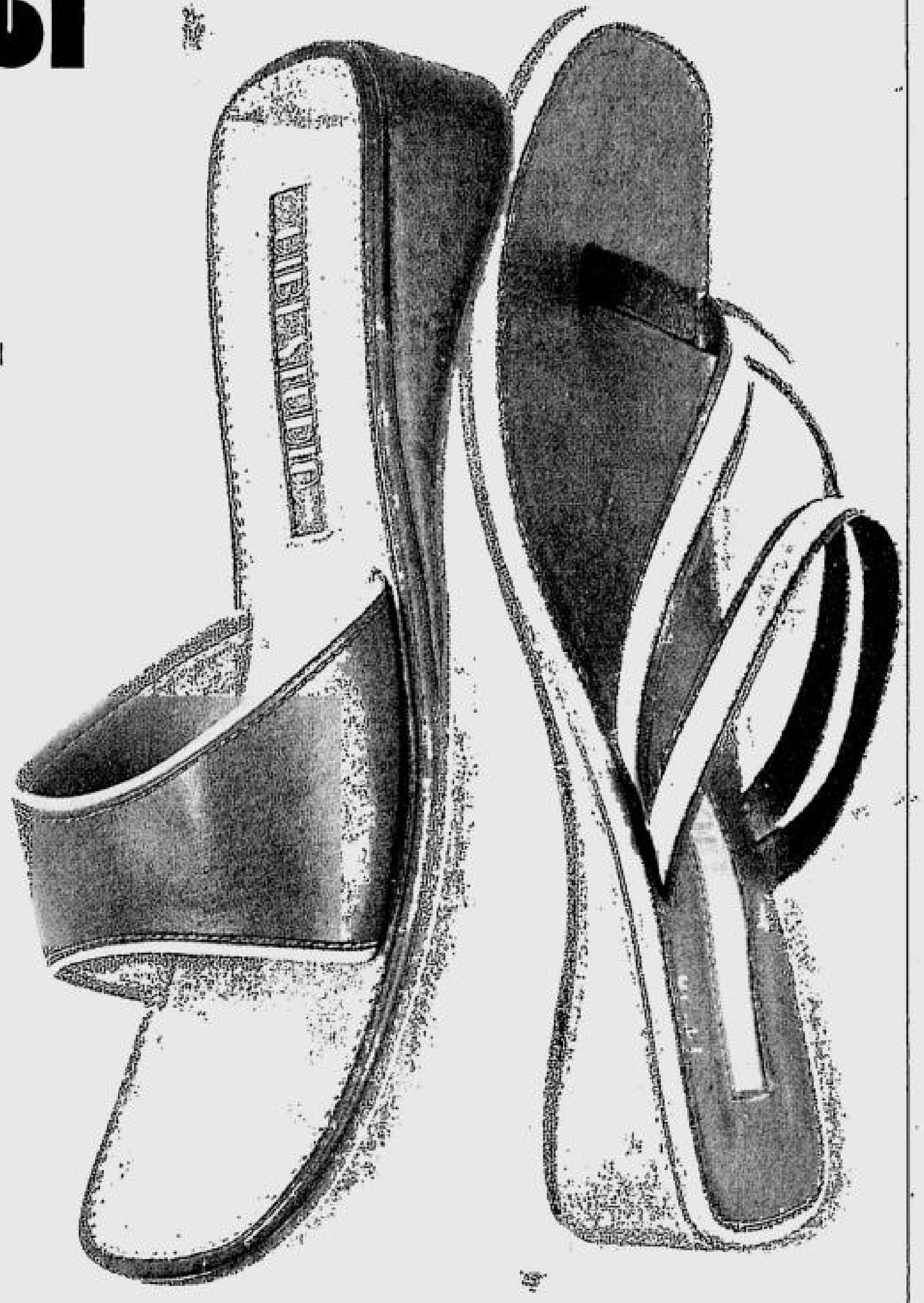

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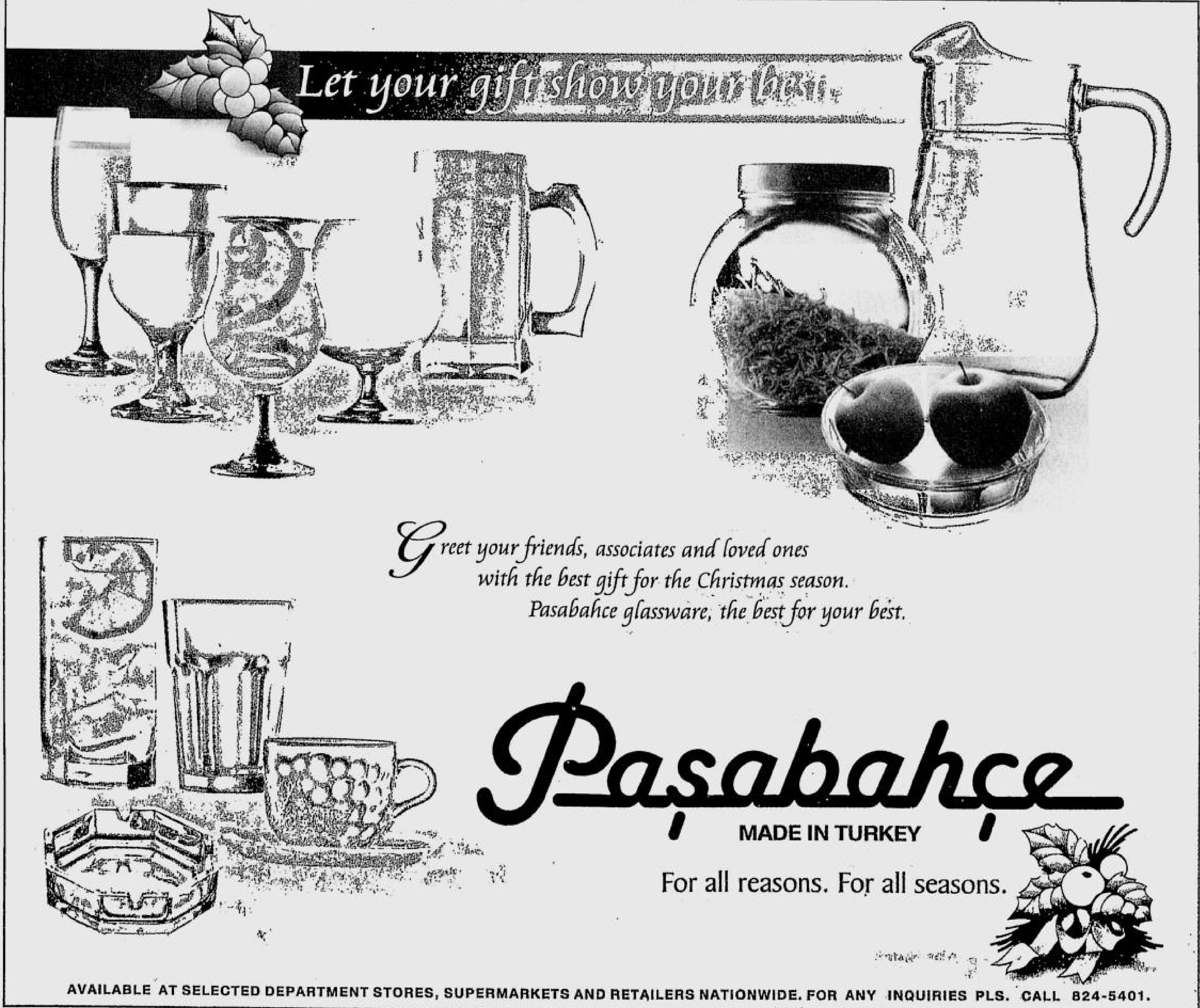

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CLAUDINE: living her own colorful life

It's pictorial time at Jun de Leon's studio, and as usual, the room bustles with many people hovering around, a few were discussing the details of the pictorial, while others just sit in a corner, eagerly waiting to get a glimpse of the star. Finally, the star arrives.

She breezes through the studio looking so radiant in her red shirt and blue jeans. She approaches a group of people, humbly apologizing for the delay. A few seconds more and she's being groomed for the pictorial.

She's Claudine Margaret Castelo Barretto. Pretty.....popular.... primetime idol. Formerly known to many as Gretchen Barretto's younger sister, she's one of the young stars today with a colorful lifestyle and personality, and she now continuously treads to a promising and lucrative showbiz career.

Claudine was introduced as one of the many teeny-boppers in the ABS-CBN late-afternoon teen variety show, "*Ang TV*". From there, she's had a variety of roles both on TV and film. She's also tried different acting genre from comedy to action and drama. "I've lost count of all the movies I've done, but the most memorable ones were "*Dahil Mahal na Mahal Kita*" and "*Anak*", to name a few," she tells.

Her last major performance was in the internationally acclaimed movie "*Anak*", where she played the rebellious daughter of Vilma Santos, one of those few people in showbiz whom she really looked up to. Today, Claudine is best known among her loyal TV followers as "Angeline", the main star of "*Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan.*", one of the country's most talked-about and top rating primetime soap opera. She is perhaps the only actress ever accorded a chance to play the lead role in three consecutive soap operas.

Claudine has been acting for most of her life, in a career that has spanned more than 10 years, she has made her mark as "The New Vilma Santos" and "*Teleserye* Queen", proof of her acting versatility and that she is indeed a talent to reckon with.

At 22, Claudine enjoys being an independent person. She also admits to being a spoiled brat when she was a kid. "I used to be so pampered and I always get what I wanted back then. This could be the reason why I also wanted to grow up independent. As for my parents, they're not getting any younger. They also wanted me to learn."

One thing that makes Claudine an endearing person is her being simple, accommodating and down to earth, despite her life of glamour, and the status she has in showbizness.

Her verve, determination and pleasing personality paved the way for more projects. Recently, she's been tapped by **Secosana ladies' bags** to endorse their line of trendy, quality products. **Secosana** believed that Claudine has the quality they're looking for in a talent. Her "*masa*" yet elegant appeal made her well-suited to endorse their product. Secosana ladies' bags can cater to all classes : upper, middle and working class women, even the teenagers.

On her part, Claudine is proud to be Secosana's celebrity endorser. "I'm particularly choosy with endorsement offers. I usually ask for samples of the products because I don't want to endorse something that I will not use."

The brand does seem to suit her fashion taste (" I go for the basics and simple"). Secosana ladies' bags come in different colors—from the basics to the ones that are in fashion.

The designs also vary depending on the category, from young to old, or simple to sophisticated. Quality-wise, the bags are made from imported materials and are more affordable compared to other brands. When asked about Secosana ladies' bags — "Oh, I love it!" she gushes. "Bags have always been one of my weaknesses. I personally like the red ones, I'm just fond of these colors lately."

Aside from taping her regular soap, the talented actress is currently doing a movie by Olivia Lamasan under Star Cinema. Entitled "Got to Believe in Magic", the movie will reunite her once more on-screen with real life sweetheart, Rico Yan. Claudine has been to some difficult period in her life—nasty inrigues, tumultuous lovelife—now, she seems unfazed by the contradictions of her career. The young actress will continue to charm and glide her way through life, unperturbed by the pitfalls of her hazardous profession. Whatever image she's putting forth at any moment, whatever lifestyle or philosophy she adopts or rejects, she only has this to say to her teenage fans: "Enjoy your teenage life. But always listen to your parents because in the end, you will be responsible for the mistakes you've committed."

***

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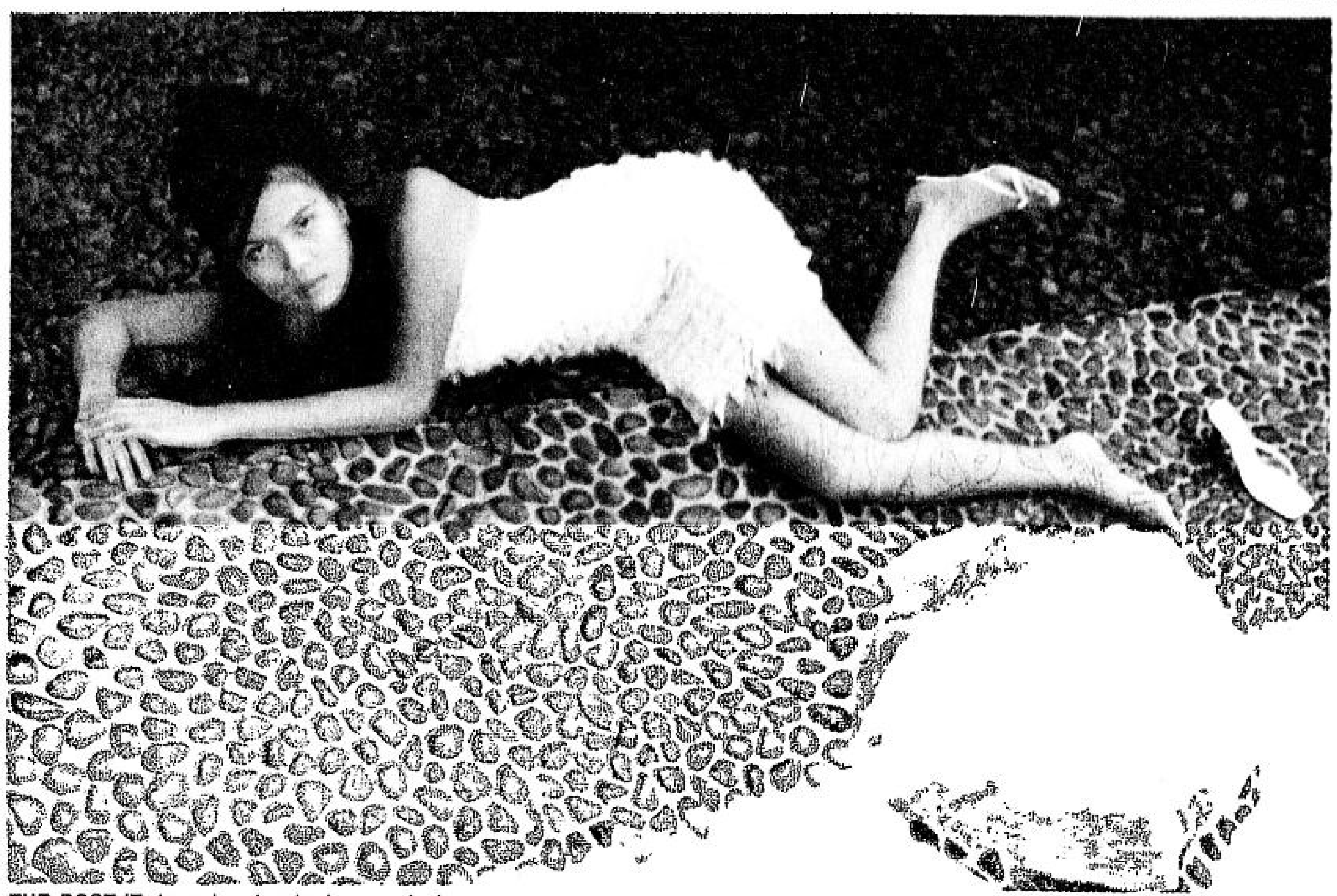
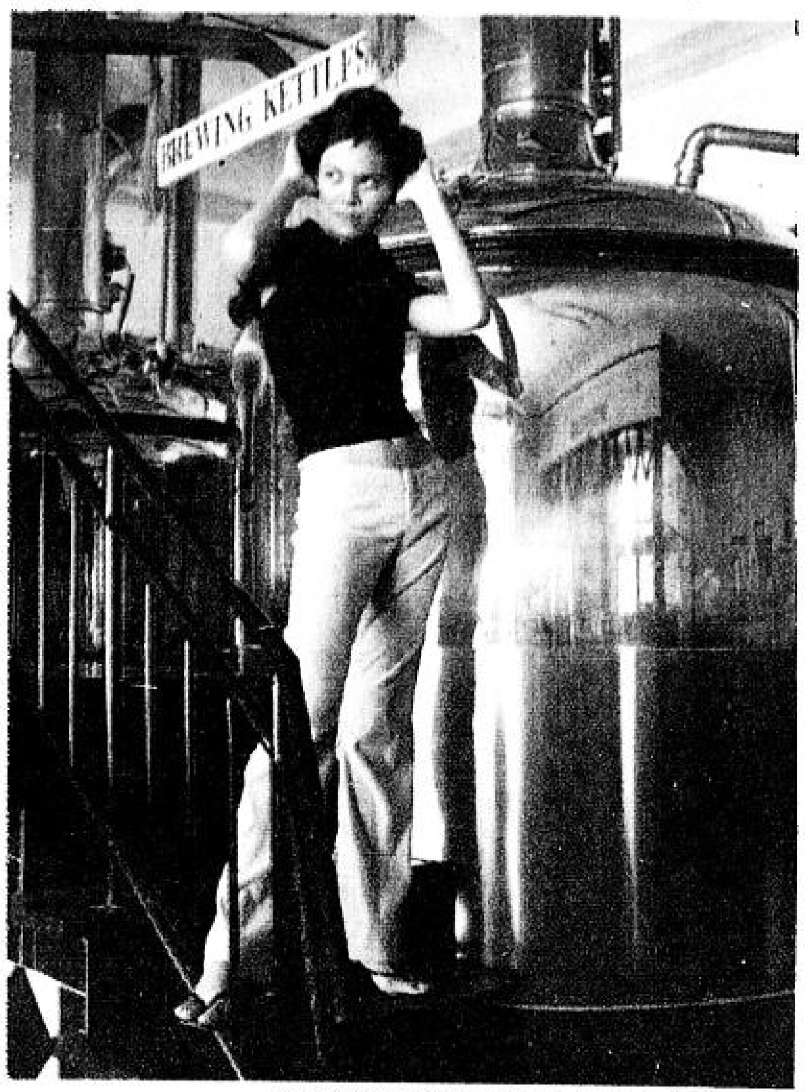


THE POST-IT dress has inspired many designers.



BLACK wool tank attached with rib (P2,050) and camel pants (P1,950)

New emphasis on style

The Singapore house M)phosis has set up shop in Manila to cater to the hard-nosed middle-class consumer

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
VISUAL CONCEPT BY ALBERT AVELLANA

IF you're shopping for clothes in malls, chances are they're either too expensive or too boring. Despite the influx of imported labels, there are not enough choices especially for the hard-nosed consumer.

Therefore a clothing company has taken the bravado to make runway trends accessible to the majority of women. We're talking about the likes of Gucci's famous Post-It dress for the price of P2,150.

This has been the strategy of M)phosis, which won Label of the Year at the inaugural awards during Singapore's Fashion Week. The store's name is pronounced as "emphasis" because the strategy focuses on a specific market and need. Many years ago, its managing director, Hensley Teh, saw the future of fashion in specialty stores that become chains stores. Instead of trying to sell everything in one roof, retailers are streamlining their brands and are narrowing down the needs of the consumer.

Backroom beginnings

Teh's company used to make clothes for another popular brand, Chomel (pronounced shomél). Teh's group provided the designs and production for this label. "We looked at the consumer's strengths and what they wanted. The brand started off with career clothes such as jackets and pants. It was the right thing then in the '80s. Chomel did very well. We grew because of its strength. We handle resources and production. They had the financial means and could expand when the market dictated."

The factory turned down offers from other stores to produce private labels. Eventually, Chomel broke ties and began its own production and design. Meanwhile, Singapore opened its doors to more labels. Competition in the garment industry became intense. Teh observed that women wanted to be up-to-date but were not willing to shell out a lot of money.

"Consumers wanted constant change," Teh says. That's when M)phosis came along. There was this market which had not been provided for. I saw the need."

Local presence

Since M)phosis began its business seven years ago in Singapore, the business has expanded to Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand, Japan, Indonesia, Japan, Australia and Dubai. The export market has grown to 40 percent.

The clothing company was introduced to the Philippines two years ago through the Trade Development Board of Singapore. Through seminars, Teh met various fashion companies, including JVS Asia, the local franchise holder of Marithe Girbaud and Body Shop.

"We felt our partners have experience in marketing a brand. JVS Asia has been successful in its choices. It has the knowledge of the local market and it can offer our merchandise," says Teh.

M)phosis' first outlet is located at Festival Mall. The second store will open this month at the third level of Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

Teh identified the niche—working women who want a wide range of fashion-forward clothes at value for money.

In the Philippines, M)phosis cotton shirts and tanks go for P600 to P750; knits and shirts for P1,050 to P1,550; skirts from P1,050 to P1,350; dresses from P1,350 to P1,750; pants at P1,650 to P2,150; bags at P800 to P1,150 and footwear from P400 to P1,650.

Not saturated

Asked if the Metro Manila market is saturated with clothes, Teh replies, "In the eyes of the consumer, the market may seem saturated. But at a closer look, there's an opportunity to offer something different and something that understands their needs. There might be a lot of clothes here, but at the same time, these might not be what they want."

Other labels may focus on casual clothing or work wear (of which there are few here). However, most of the available brands don't offer anything trendy. One of M)phosis' strengths is that it churns out a new collection every month.

"Consumers would like to see novelty. They don't want to be too late for fashion," Teh says.

M)phosis fabrics are imported from Europe and Japan. The clothes are designed, sampled and produced in Singapore. However, some items such as knitwear are made in Hong Kong. Other items, which require detailed work, are done in Thailand.

"We are getting closer to producing a universal product that appeals to all kinds of people. This will keep our presence in the market for a long time," Teh says.

Marge C. Enriquez

MODEL: JOAN DE MESA, CAL CARRIE INTERNATIONAL, PHIL.
MAKEUP: MERRY CARLOS FOR BODY SHOP COLOURINGS
HAIR: LOURD RYAN RAMOS FOR EMPHASIS SALON
LOCATION: DUSIT NIKKO HOTEL
SPECIAL THANKS: SANDRA GARCIA, MALOU ROSAL
M)PHOSIS HAS AN OUTLET AT FESTIVAL MALL
AND WILL SOON OPEN AT SHANGRI-LA PLAZA.

GRECIAN look

BABY doll empire dress (P1,850)

URBAN LUXE. The M)phosis collection is clean-cut, sharp-edged, updated classic but cool wearable clothes in basic colors.

I was fired and it felt good

BY JOSE JAVIER REYES

EXACTLY a day after my 47th birthday, I received the best gift possible. I learned another lesson about life and I surprised myself by realizing that I was finally old enough to know about the complexities of earthly existence.

I received a call from the television studio setting a meeting in the early afternoon. Call it premonition or simply perception, but I had (more or less) an idea of what was coming. I was laid off my job directing a soap opera for reasons I completely understood. It was because of cost cutting, the buzzword of every corporation and institution undergoing the pains of the present crisis not only maiming our country but the entire world.

I knew this was bound to happen so I was not completely shocked. Okay, maybe I was a bit surprised that it was going to happen this soon but I was aware it was going to happen anyway. Why shouldn't it? I know of another director who was replaced by an in-house talent. Why should the studio keep me whereas there are directors in the network roster who are under contract, on a monthly salary basis, but who have now lost shows because of the number of programs being axed?

Whoever gave the stupid idea to the government that media and its workers are rolling in money? Television exists and subsists because of advertising. Now ask any agency person you know and he would tell you that when cutting off excess fat becomes a necessity, corporations big and small will scrimp on their advertising and marketing budgets. That's how the vicious cycle begins… and ends just like a chicken-or-egg situation.

I may have lost a job but what I have gained is so much more—the reassurance that I can handle life's jokes, both good and bad

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

So I knew I was eventually going to be asked to leave. Somehow, it felt fashionable for nowadays getting laid off rather than getting merely laid has become the favorite topic of conversation. I should have been appalled, disgusted and even slightly hysterical, but I was not. I gave it some really good thinking, perhaps out of a due process of sifting through a whirlpool of ideas running through your head when twists of fate such as this happen.

Here I was, finally 47 years old, and for the first time I was being asked to leave rather than have the pleasure of choosing to exit.

Loving the work

Did that mean that I actually hated working on that soap opera and that I did not feel bad because I was relieved? No. I might have hated the pressure, the working hours and all the problems that accompanied the menu of working on what seemed like an endless convolution of plots in the soap, but I loved working with the people involved in that project. By this I do not only mean the actors or the immediate creative staff but the entire production as well. I had not done television for quite a while and to spend 2½ days a week for five months with the same creatures somehow brought about a bonding that would indeed cause tears when ripped apart by circumstances.

I realized that events were unfolding because they were part of a process of what had to happen. It could be reassuring if not flattering to think that they were getting rid of you because they could no longer afford your services. The very thought somehow confirmed that you were not cheap. You could have argued that money was not and should never be the issue when it came to loving your work. But then there were technicalities and legalities that should really take priority over the domain of emotions.

I guess I was stunned the most by the fact that I was a bit sad, but not angry. Nor did I feel even a tinge of bitterness over what happened. Even if people around me were angrier than I was about what happened, I found myself appeasing them. They talked about putting together the show, mounting the show, launching the show, then eventually being booted out after the program took off… But then I said, "That is not my show alone." Sure, the director is the captain of the ship, but no large vessel can traverse the unpredictable waters with just the captain alone. Besides, the studio was cost cutting, right? You could not argue with that—because it is extremely selfish to earn that much at the cost of others losing their job while earning only so much.

And then it dawned upon me that indeed time does not only mellow people: age deepens insight as well as broadens visions. Everything that happens in life has a lesson to be learned for there are no accidents. Every event, big or small, is meant to open your eyes and mind to some learning experience. Losing a job is… well, losing a job. But failing to learn about yourself and understanding the events that brought changes is the bigger tragedy. When you can't figure out the whys and hows of what happened, then you can never take the most important next step: moving on.

Change

Sure. A sudden change in schedule, budget or the order of things can be disorienting for a while, but again, things will still change. It can be for the better, it may be for the worse. Still, nothing is permanent in one's life, not even life itself, right? In the past, I always thought that people who blurt out morsels of wisdom like "Laugh your problems away" must be clinically insane. Now it makes a lot of sense: sulking, feeling bitter—or (ugh!) worse—swimming in the quagmire of self-pity—these are stupid exercises that do not only accelerate the recession of hairline, the addition of wrinkles and the discombobulating of personal aura. They do not teach you how to move on.

People are surprised that I am taking this all too well. "You lost your job, you idiot! And you're not mad at those heartless people for just throwing you out?" one of my close friends seethed. I smiled and said I was not angry at all. I may have lost a job but what I have gained is so much more. It is the reassurance that I can handle life's jokes, both good and bad, and that I have the friendship and respect of the cast and crew of the soap opera. "Now that is something that cannot be bought… or equated with any talent fee with or without the 20-percent withholding tax," I told my friend. You cannot cost-cut camaraderie.

The same day I lost my job in the soap opera, I received a call from Star Cinema. It was about a movie offer. Whatever blows I got that afternoon, the bruises were salved by the news that I was not exactly going to be completely useless. And when Malou Santos sent me the screenplay, an award-winning script from a neophyte writer, the epiphany was complete.

The screenplay is about materialism, about letting go, about the place of God in the hearts of men, and about living each day as if it were your last. It was about moving on.

Whatever lesson the universe was teaching me, the message was loud and clear. And except for missing the beautiful people I have worked with in the soap opera, I have never been happier. Does that make a lot of sense? It should. It really should.

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Black power

By Camille T. Cruz
Photos by Patrick Uy

CLOTHES AND SHOES: BENETTON'S FALL-WINTER COLLECTION

MODELS: OLEN JUAREZ-LIM, RISSA SAMSON

HAIR AND MAKEUP: HENRI CALAYAG OF H SALON
MAKEUP: SHISEIDO

AN ELECTRIC blue faux fur collar trim provides a strong accent to this halter top and loose slacks.

No matter the fad, this color endures

TRENDS come and go, from plaids to prints, sequins and ruffles. No matter the prevailing look, consumers will always return to basic black pieces.

Designers from all over the globe will never fail to produce a perfect black dress, a pair of black slim pants or short shorts; a black halter top, black turtleneck sweater, black sleeveless knit top and many more.

The point is, as much as we wish to move away from the world of black, this basic color will always be accessible to any style or climate adjustments. Black stands for self-confidence, power and strength.

Black pieces make the core of any wardrobe: a shirt, slacks, casual pants, knee-length skirt, sleeveless top and dress. If we were in another territory with weather of all seasons, a black turtleneck would come in handy.

In winter, black becomes the most basic of tops.

In matching black, try to stay away from a white top, specifically shirt tucked in a pair of black pants. The look is very predictable. If you use the look, have a great ensemble of accessories in your shirt, neck, arms and ears.

Other options to go with black are bold and bright colors such as aqua, bright red and intense, bright green hues. Black on black isn't that dark. If you choose to wear an all-black ensemble on a hot day, maybe you should make sure that the fabric is not thick or itchy. Linens are an alternative.

To lighten an all-black outfit, you may add a black-and-white bag. You may also try black-and-white shoes if you want to look classic.

Keep in mind that black draws attention to the wearer more than the details of the clothes.

E-mail the author at camille_cruz@hotmail.com

A SLEEVELESS knit top and a long A-line skirt spells sophistication.

Best model contest set on Nov. 13

SAGA Events + Models is organizing the MTV Fashionista Best Model of the World Search 2001. The competition will be held on Nov. 13 at the NBC Tent and will feature 20 of the most fashionable and stylish men and women in the country today.

The winners of MTV Fashionista Best Model of the World Search 2001 will be sent to Istanbul, Turkey to compete in the international Best Model of the World (BMW) Search. This is the first time the Philippines will be mounting an official search for the BMW international search.

Today, the candidates will tour the hottest bars of the metro such as Friday's ATC, Outback ATC, Friday's Manila, Italianni's Greenbelt, Friday's Makati and Hard Rock Café.

The Best Model of the World-Philippines contest is a collaborative effort of the best talents from our local fashion scene. The event adheres to the ideology that fashion is not only an industry but also a form of culture and a type of lifestyle. The Philippine search to the Best Model of the World launches a preview of the Best Model of the World finals on December.

The Philippine search to the Best Model of the World competition has an exclusive tie-up with "MTV Fashionista," MTV's weekly program that features everything from the latest runway apparels to the latest street and clubwear to the trendiest living spaces and restaurants. VJ Sarah Meier hosts the show every Monday, 5-5:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 7:30-8 p.m.; Thursday, 5-5:30 p.m.; and Saturday, 5:30-6 p.m.

Twenty official candidates have been chosen: Francis Ramon Tioseco, Carlo Ian Adorador, Ariel Atendido, DJ de Guzman, Erie Matic, Geoff Briz, Louie Suico, Louie Borinaga, Ronald Tiu, Joel Tarca and Jamelle Shular (male category); Kit Baraquias, Divine Lee, Ava Abejar, Parish Chua, Jas Williams, Lisa Tandugon, Everille Aparicio, 2tay Maristela, Jyra Janairo and Michelle German (female category).

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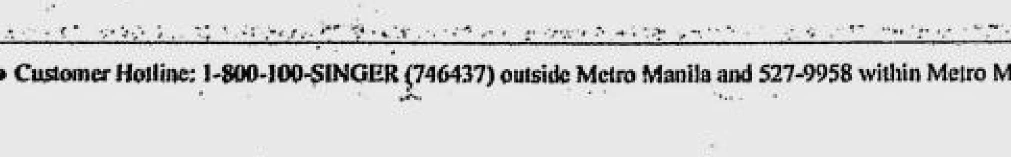

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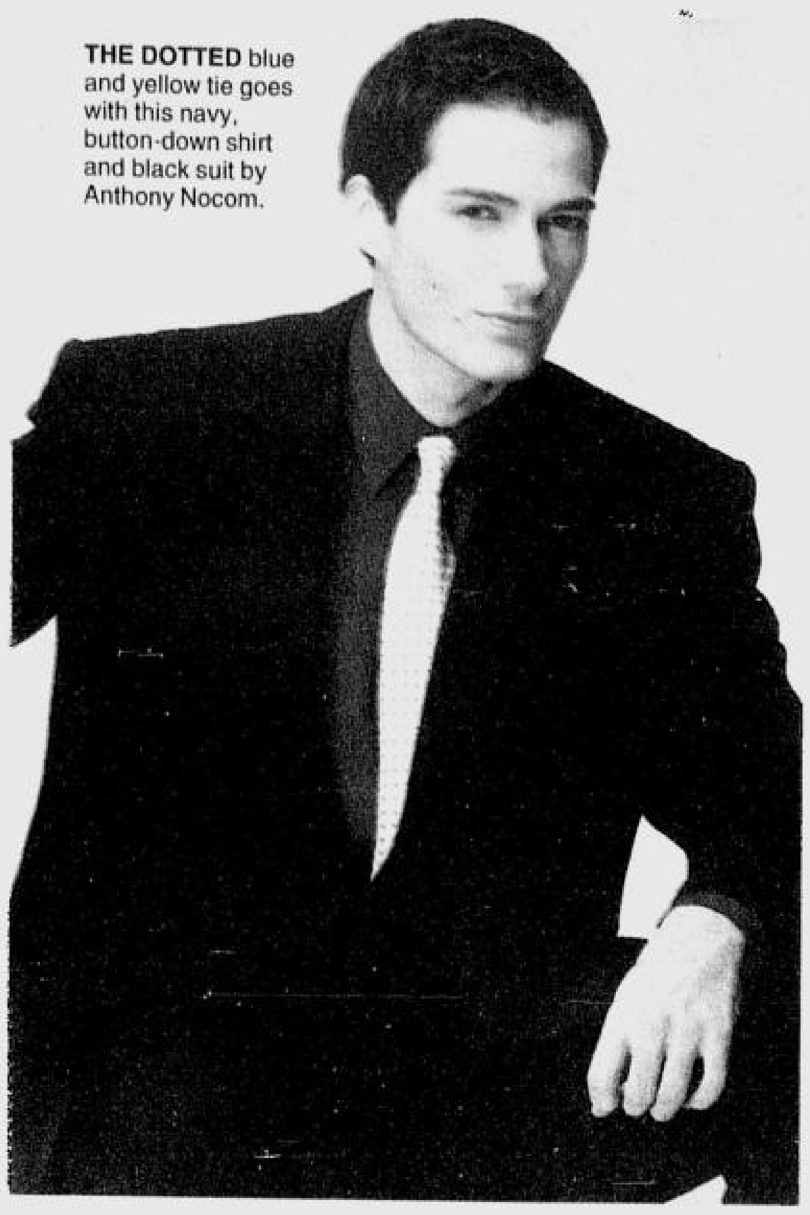
Ties that bind



THE DOTTED blue and yellow tie goes with this navy, button-down shirt and black suit by Anthony Nocom.

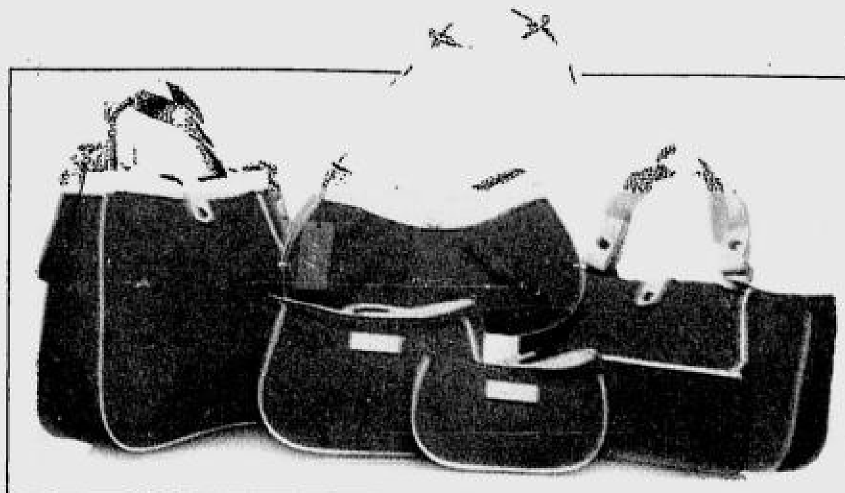
SM's new collection of ties is textured in frosted neon colors. These work best with contrasting shirts. And for those who are first-time tie-wearers, or those who have long kept their ties in the closet, here are some tie tactics from SM:

- Take the creases out of your ties by puffing the two ends together, then rolling this around your finger like a belt. Slip it off your finger and leave it rolled up overnight.
- Hang silk ties in your closet. Knit or crocheted ties, however, should not be hung, but should be laid or rolled up in a drawer.
- Don't dry clean your neckties. Dry cleaners may be able to remove spots but once they press the tie, they will compress the lining and dull the luster of the silk.
- A water stain may be removed by rubbing it with a piece of the same fabric—the other end of the tie perhaps. More serious stains will often respond to a spot remover.
- Untie the knot first in removing a tie. Always remember that no matter how convenient it seems to slip the small end out of the knot, your are significantly decreasing the longevity of the tie by using this method.

The tie collection is available at the Mens' Accessories Department of all SM stores.

LOOSEN UP. Wear an orange shirt with a violet tie.

'Denim-mite' bags



ALFA, a name brand in the fashion bag circle, launches its own line of trendy ladies' denim bags. The Denim Collection comes in three hip and attractive designs (handbag, tote and pouchette). Complementing accessories such as pouches, coin purse and cell phone case completes this chic collection.

Featuring the flexibility of the material, all bags are reversible revealing the stylish print lining such as plaid.

Get these cool denim bags from any Alfa Stores located at Robinsons Galleria, Festival Super Mall or SM Centerpoint.

Stylish to the max

MAXI, the ready-to-wear line for trendy women whose sizes range from 14 to 22 unfolds its new holiday collection—"Dare Wear Brights."

Various hues like red, lime, olive and fuchsia can be paired with basic denim jeans and skirts. Capri pants and the classic trousers in cotton twill match perfectly with lightweight cotton shirts.

Maxi also has shirt dresses in various colors, cardigans and knitwear.

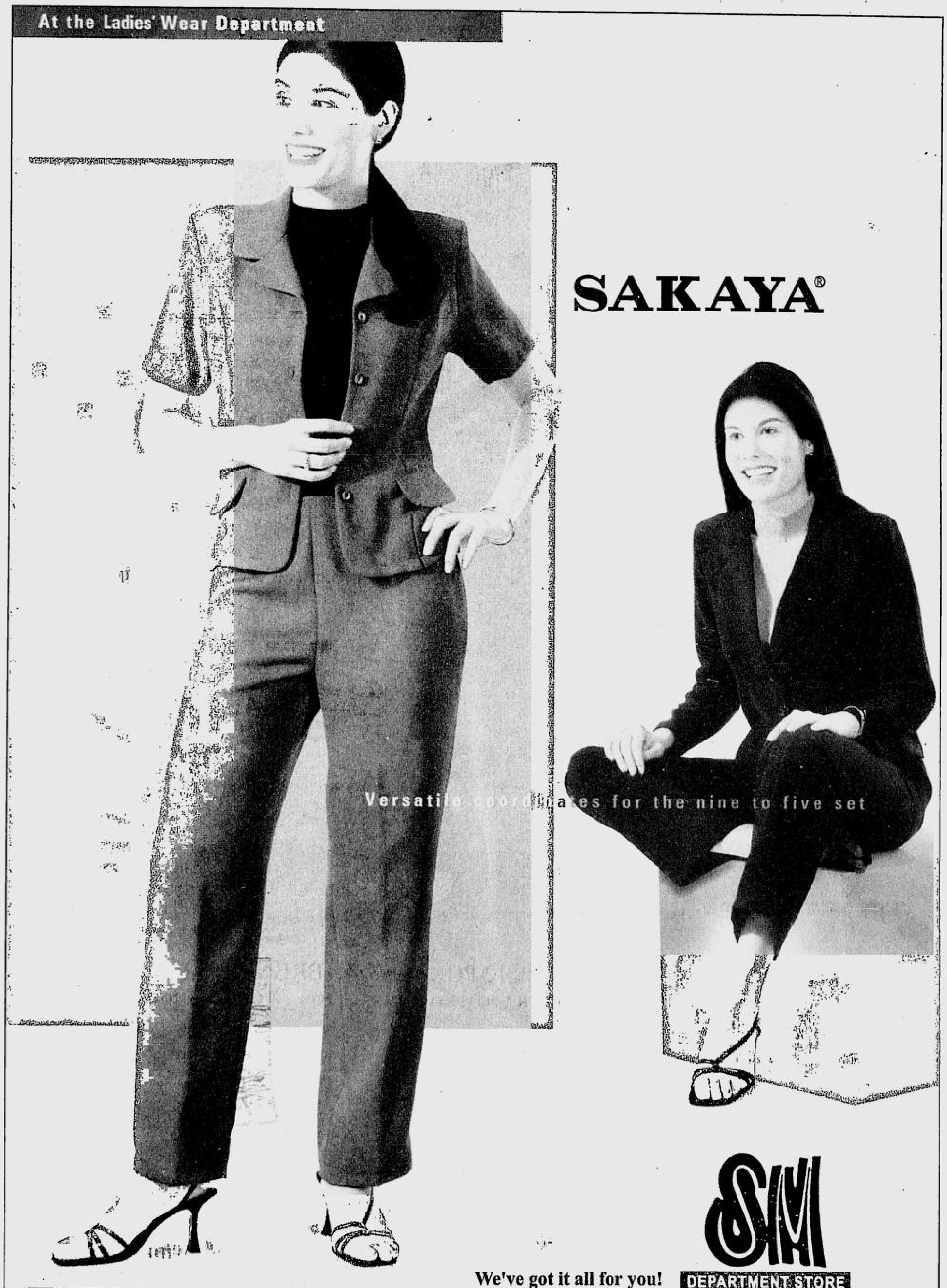
So, for the holidays, step out looking fashionable with different designs to suit your taste!

The fashion philosophy behind the Maxi label adheres to the fact that "shape not size matters and that there is a suitable fashionable style for every shape."

Maxi is available at Robinsons Department Store, Ortigas Center; Landmark Department Store in Makati; Robinsons Department Store Ermita; Rustan's Cubao; Rustan's Harrison; Cinderella Glorietta; and Cinderella Megamall.

DIAGONAL stripes that meet at the center of the body line are slimming

BEAT the heat. Between the rain, there's heat. When it comes to dressing lightly, a printed shirt comes to mind. It may be a floral print, diamond print, or plaid. Quicksilver's collection is geared for the individual who wants comfort with style. The two always carry a characteristic that blends a pair of shorts to be worn with a plain-colored t-shirt or a short-sleeved baby blue shirt.



At the Ladies' Wear Department

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LIFESTYLE

Trend Spotting

There's no dumping Malate

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

I DON'T usually do Halloween, but this Oct. 31 we found ourselves in Malate, at the street party, in the swim of youthful energy and post-2000 bohemia or what passes for it. Actually we were incidental to the street party (anyone past the GenX is incidental to any street gig); we were at Bistro Remedios for the launch of the LJC and Bookmark book "Malate: A Matter of Taste."

If you took one look at the crowd that continued to swell around the Remedios Circle and beyond as the night wore on, you wouldn't think this was in a country beset again with coup rumors, among other hindrances to normal living. It was neither a sheer escapist nor elitist crowd. It wasn't that homogeneous.

These were people—rich and poor, local and expat, pedestrian and yuppie, young and old, gay and straight—who just wanted to be out that night, looking forward to a long holiday and for once not skimming the bad news, liberated from couch-potatoing in front of CNN. In short it was very "Malate"—very impromptu, very heterogeneous, with no pretension to status symbol, and quite unshockable. Nothing contrived or put-on.

> Last Halloween saw people shuttling between Malate and Makati until the wee hours. Malate keeps its unique charm and fun

Midnight

After the Bistro launch, we repaired to the old reliable Café Adriatico which we hadn't checked out for some time. There, seated before the window, we got a balcony view of the visual feast that was the street. Passing below our gaze was a procession of costumed characters in infinitely imaginative variety—the black-robed horror creatures, the bishops, the monks, the Playboy bunnies. You name it, there was an outlandish garb and makeup for everyone.

As the clock ticked to midnight, the wonder of it was no longer the make-believe attire but the casualness with which the characters strutted around, like they were just hopping from one bar or resto to another, which they were actually. A transvestite in a bunny costume and net stockings didn't even merit a second glance from the crowd. And people were dancing on the streets—spontaneously, not just for the paparazzi. Only in Malate could you have such nonchalance, spontaneity and disregard of class—and gender, Halloween or not. I couldn't believe that our thirtysomething companion hadn't been inside Café Adriatico until that night. Obviously he was of that Makati-Ortigas-Libis generation who wasn't even around yet when Café Adriatico and its denizens were defining Manila's night life. And he couldn't believe that night life, as he knew it, could come without any attempt at pretension or snobbery. So since he couldn't have possibly finished reading our newly launched Malate book that night, we recounted to him the phenomenon that was and still is Malate.

In a city of blight, Malate remains one bright spot. It developed without a government plan and continues to draw tourists without a tourism master plan. (That night alone, we saw a busload of tourists—an incredible sight these days.)

Through the decades, Malate grew, took on color and character, and pulled surprises through the sheer lifestyle need and ingenuity of the city's characters‹from restaurateurs to bohemians, from fashionistas and fashion designers to artists, from gourmets to gluttons. It must be the only place in Metro Manila where the urban poor and the elite and yuppies can co-

THERE'S\ p.E8

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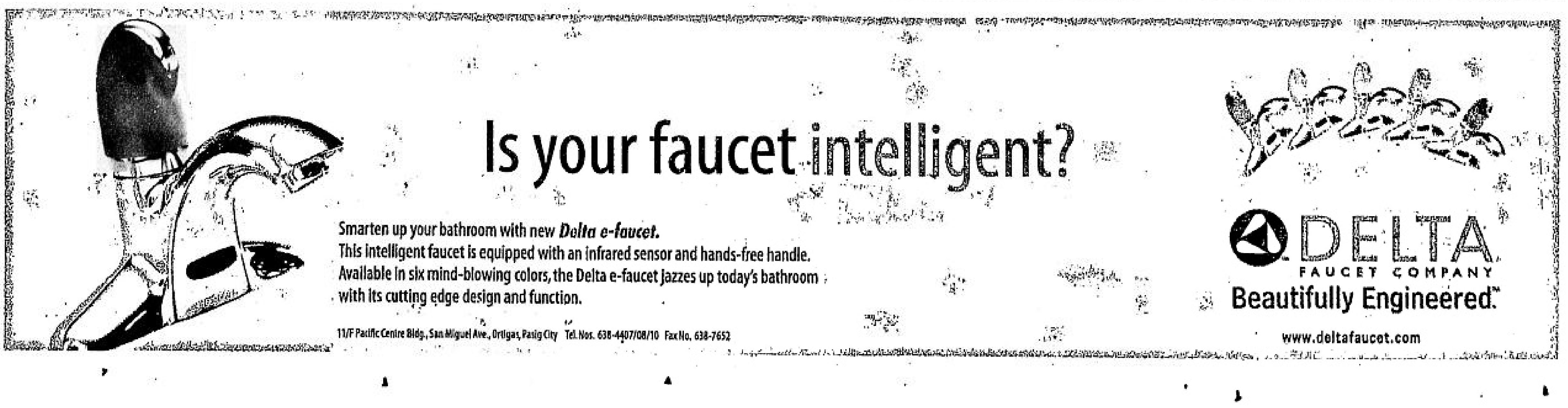

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Smart casual

The ways of *casual*

PHOTOS BY WAHOO GUERRERO

VISIT the Kamiseta outlet in a big mall on a Sunday, and you'll be amazed at the snake-like queue at the counters and how Filipinas snap up the casual separates. Indeed the Filipino way of dressing is characterized by the extremely casual way of dressing.

In her book "Casual Power," Sherry Maysonave says the word "casual" raises puzzlement. She breaks the informal dress into several categories.

Business casual is a "comfortably relaxed version of the classic business attire, with no sacrifice of professionalism or personal power."

Active casual indicates the right clothing for your physical activity. This can range from jogging outfits to gym clothes, tennis attire and what you wear after working out in the gym. It can also be what you wear when you're having coffee with friends.

Rugged casual draws inspiration from garments from the typical apparel of such outdoor sports as rock climbing and backpacking. It can be jeans, khakis, a camouflage T-shirt or a hooded anorak.

Sporty casual exudes the relaxed look of the spectator. If you wear a sneaker-type of shoe with khakis, denims or walking shorts, and you're just loafing around, then your outfit fits this category. It can be cotton pants, shorts, a heavyweight T-shirt, button-down polo shirt and a belt, paired with sneakers.

Smart casual requires a pulled-together look, replete with the right colors, fabrics, shoes and accessories. It can be a pair of slacks and a shirt or a blouse, a designer belt, a jacket or a twin set coordinated with your outfit. It looks polished with hosiery and flats or midheel shoes. The jewelry should complement the outfit. Wearing a jacket updates a denim outfit into this category.

Dressy casual means casual elegance minus the jeans. This implies the pantsuit, a dress, or coordinated separates in semi-dressy fabrics. This is the right attire to wear when the dress code in a Manila party insists on "smart casual."

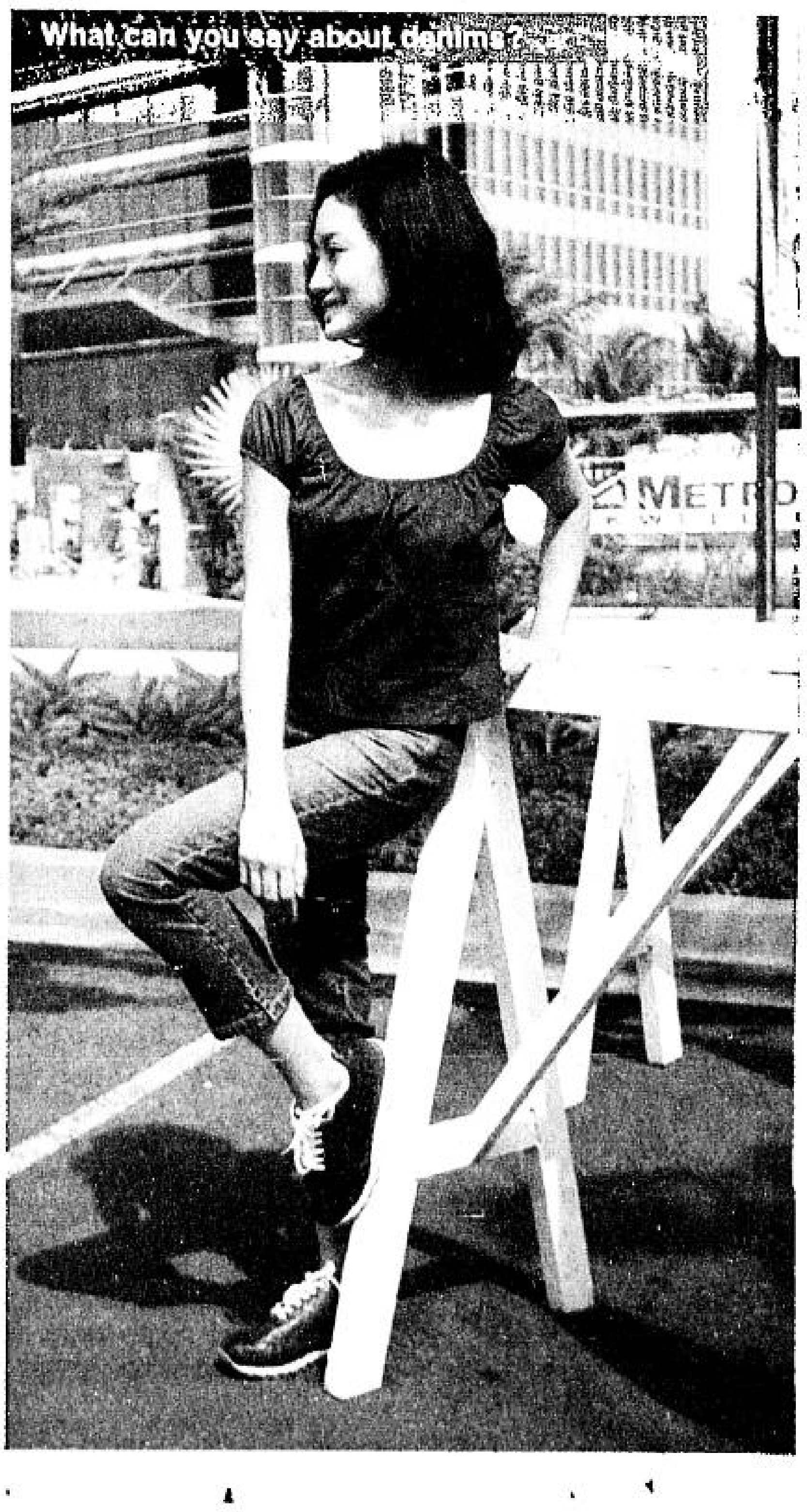
Maysonave says that if you insist on wearing jeans to the workplace, team it with a neatly pressed long-sleeved shirt in a solid color and tuck it in. A leather belt is a must, as with a pair of matching leather shoes.

In Manila, the average Filipina vacillates between the sporty, rugged and smart casual. That goes to show the range of her adventurous taste.

Ruggedly casual

Casual is a spectrum of styles and styles. Kamiseta's line is instructive

Sporty casual


What can you say about denims?

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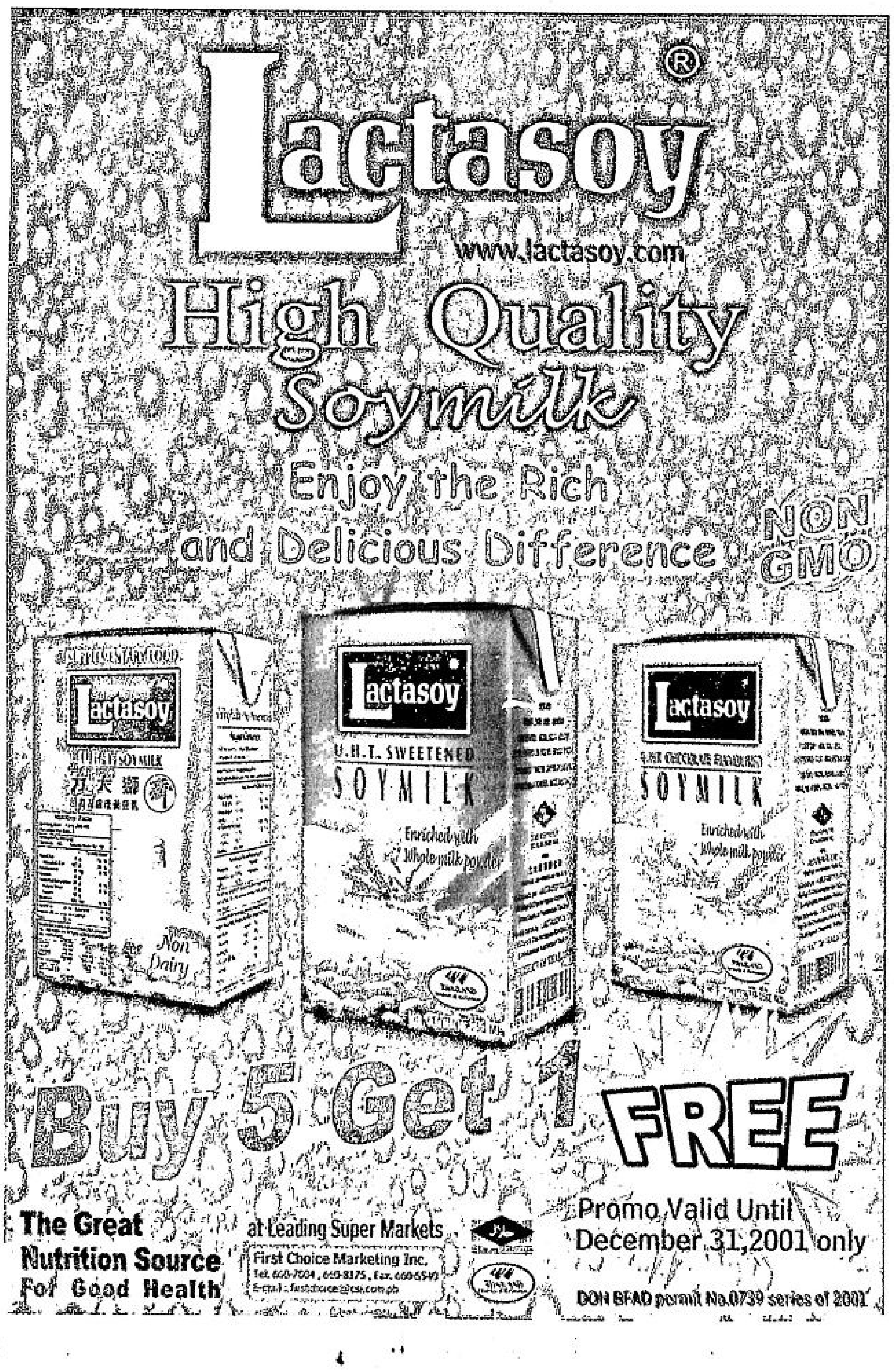
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ROBINSONS PLACE *Novaliches*

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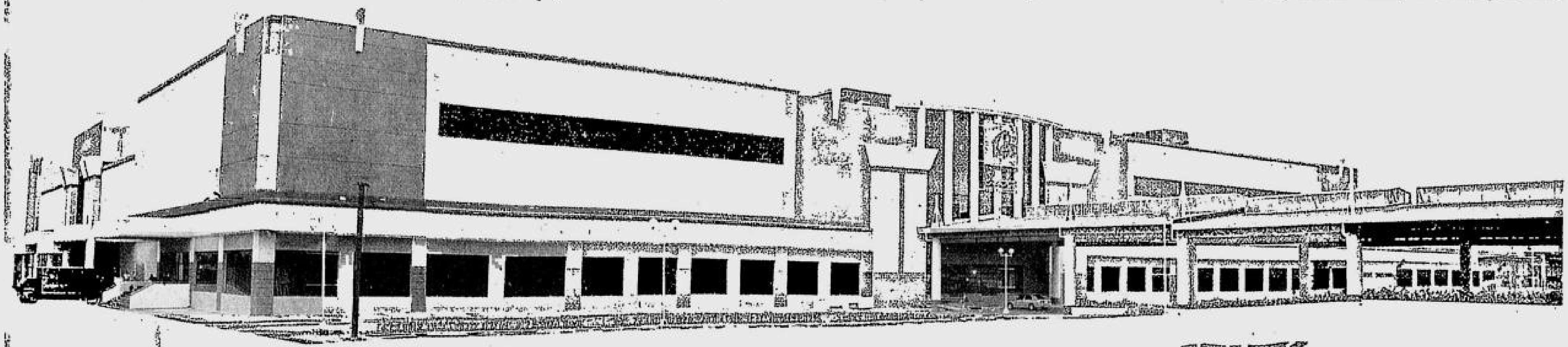


Longer malling hours, more exciting shopping options

ROBINSONS
Place
NOVALICHES

BY JOEL V. NIGOS

WELCOME to Robinsons Place Novaliches, a new shopping experience north of the metropolis, and enjoy its countless dining, recreational and entertainment, and retail options as well as its new features that make it distinct from other malls.

The three-level shopping mall, which opened in the middle of the year, is the 7th mall development of Robinsons Land Corp. It is located along Quirino Highway in Novaliches, Quezon City.

Robinsons Place Novaliches boasts of two popular anchor chains, the Robinsons Department Store (RDS) and the Big R Supercenter. Shoppers will have a variety of choices with almost 200 shops of well-known retail brands, popular fast-food chains and restaurants, Handyman, the Robinsons Movieworld, a Cineplex of eight state-of-the-art cinemas, The Children's Library, a fast-food center and cellular phone outlets. Kids and adults alike can also have fun with the latest video game machines and rides with the soon-to-open mall's amusement center—the Dream Zone.

Robinsons Place Novaliches spans a total area of 57,000 sq. m., and is strategically located and accessible to both private and public transportation. It caters to a very wide market comprising the residents of Fairview, Novaliches, Caloocan and some parts of Bulacan.

The Robinsons Department Store (RDS) is a shopping haven for the fashion conscious. It is located at the first and second levels of the mall. RDS carries a wide variety of affordable and popular brands in its men's, ladies', children's apparel and homeline sections. Trendy RTW items and fashion accessories can be had at very low prices. There are also imported, branded names for the discriminating tastes of its customers.

With the Big R Supercenter, customers can buy grocery items at wholesale prices. Large part of the area caters to fresh produce at prices lower than the "wet market." This addresses the demand of the price-conscious consumers who are always on the watch-out for high quality items at very affordable prices.

The Big R is known for its size and modern environment, competitive pricing, no-membership policy and longer store hours.

It opens as early as 7 a.m. and closes at 10 p.m. to accommodate shoppers who come in after office hours and just in time before going home.

The Big R also has a direct access to the parking area, pedestrian traffic and to the Robinsons Place Novaliches which makes it very convenient for shoppers.

The Handyman, Robinsons "do-it-yourself" hardware shop, carries a wide selection of electrical and power tools, plumbing equipment, gardening tools, car accessories, home care items, decors, paints, house cleaners, and other home gadgets and equipment. Handy Buys, which are selected items sold at special marked-down prices, are offered every month.

Mallers can also enjoy total cinematic experience with the latest local and foreign hits at the Robinsons Movieworld with its eight state-of-the-art cinemas in high-tech digital and analog formats. These are located at the 3rd level of the mall with fully carpeted and over 4,000 fitted fabric seats.

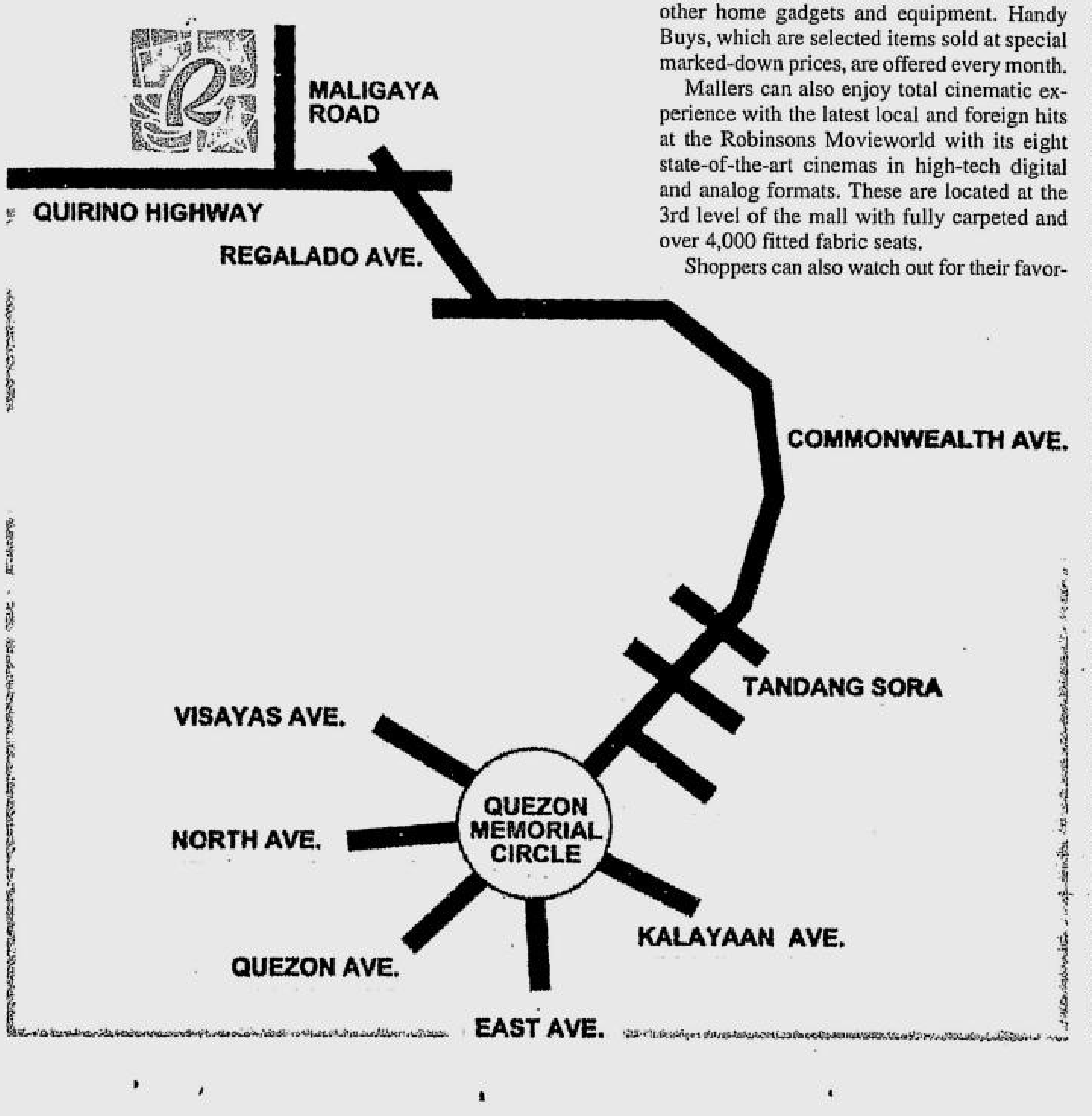
Shoppers can also watch out for their favorite show biz personalities with celebrity fans day weekends as they bring pure entertainment at the Central Atrium. There will also be scheduled live concerts and fashion shows.

The shopping complex has an ample, well-lighted and secured open parking spaces which can accommodate up to 1,800 cars. There is also a transport terminal for FX, jeeps and tricycles for the convenience of shoppers.

Bloomfields, a vast and sprawling 8-hectare high value residential subdivision is conveniently located behind the Robinsons shopping complex. The Phase I of the subdivision boasts of close to 200 units of American style homes with well-designed exteriors and interiors and is currently on its initial phase.

There is also plenty of room for future development since there are still two hectares of property in the complex for further expansion.

Photos by ROGER CARPIO



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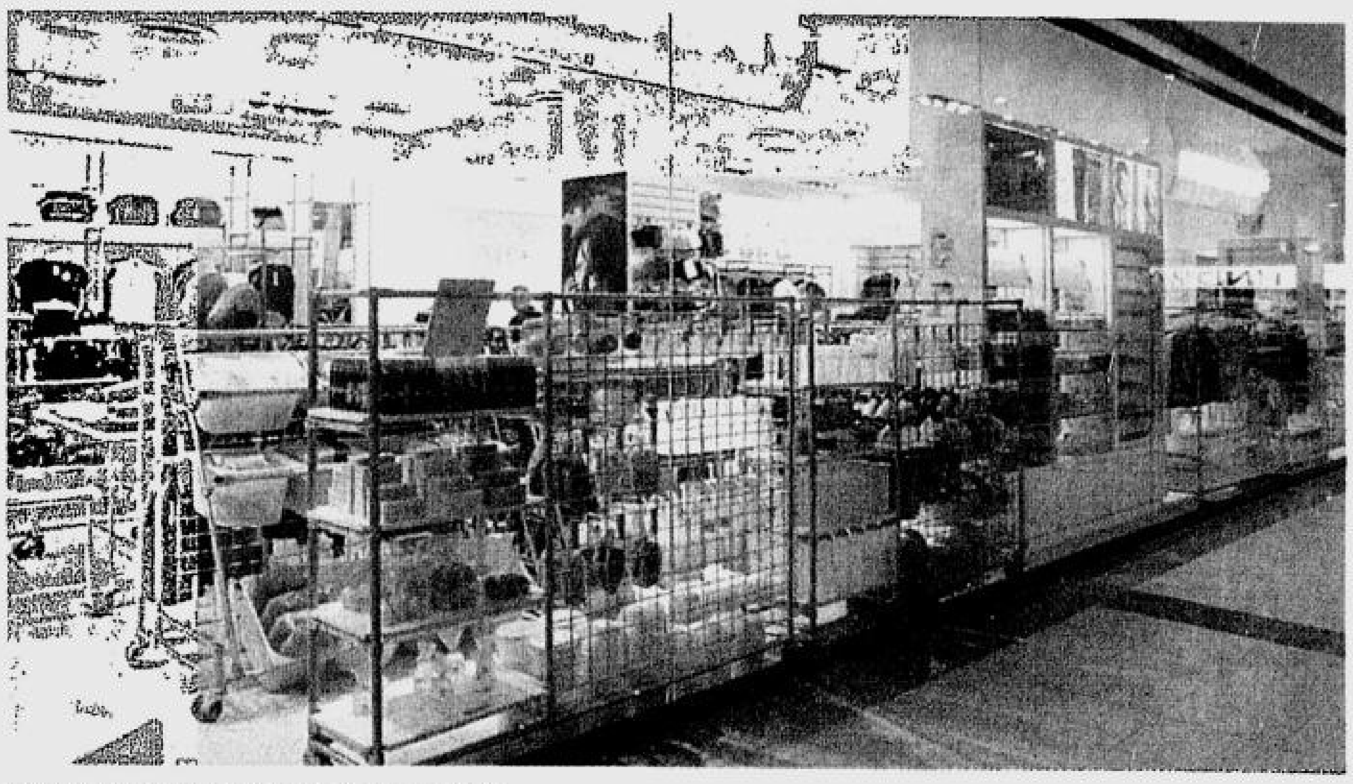

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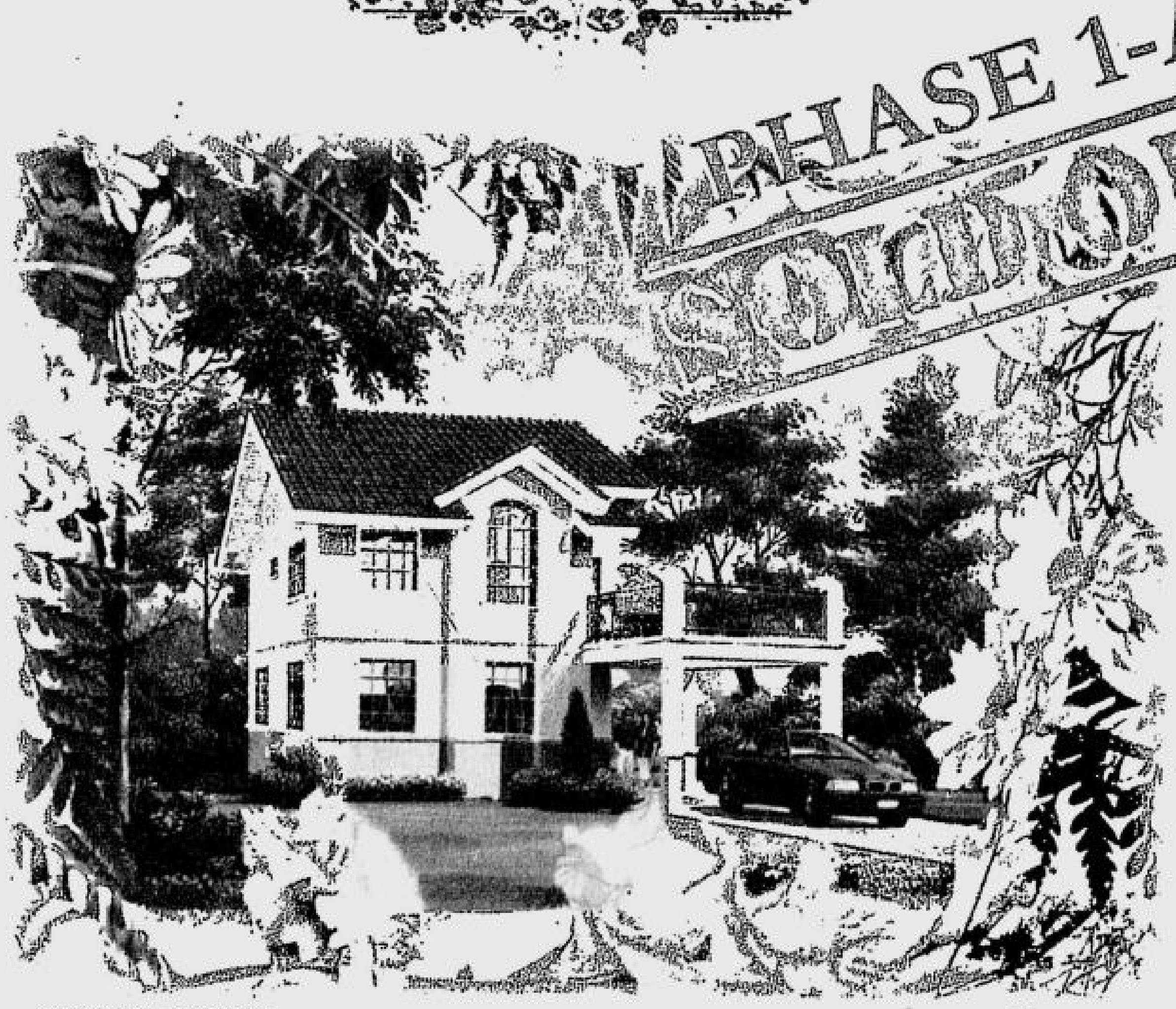

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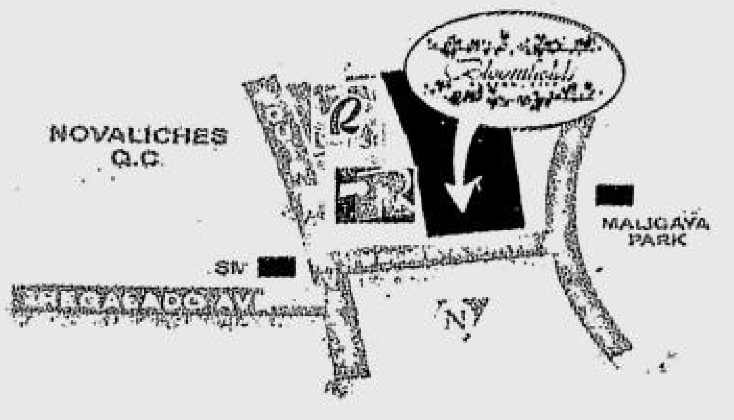

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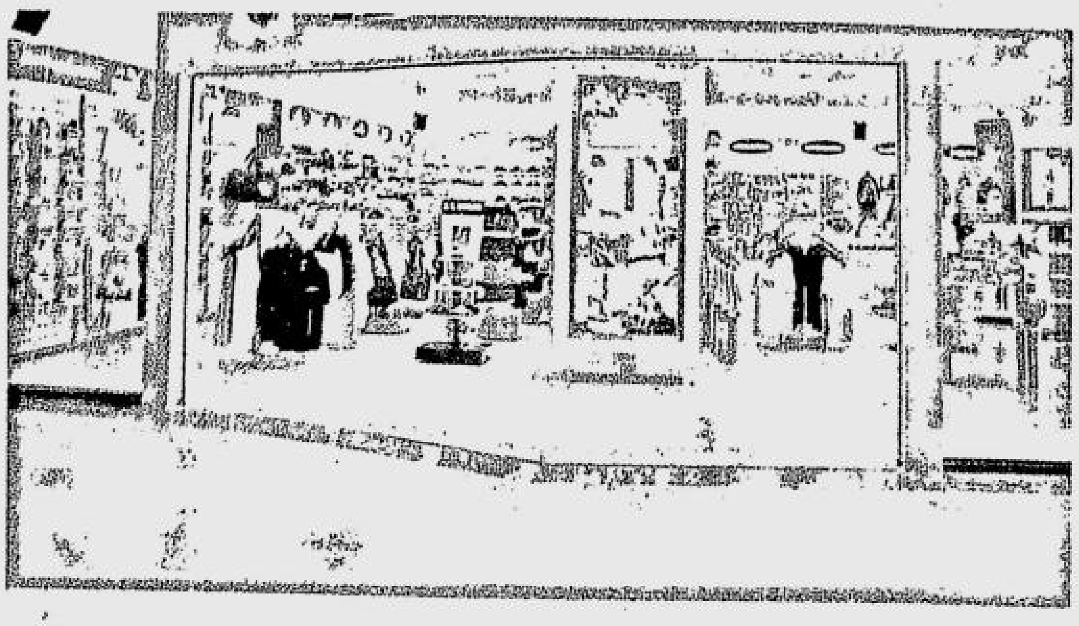

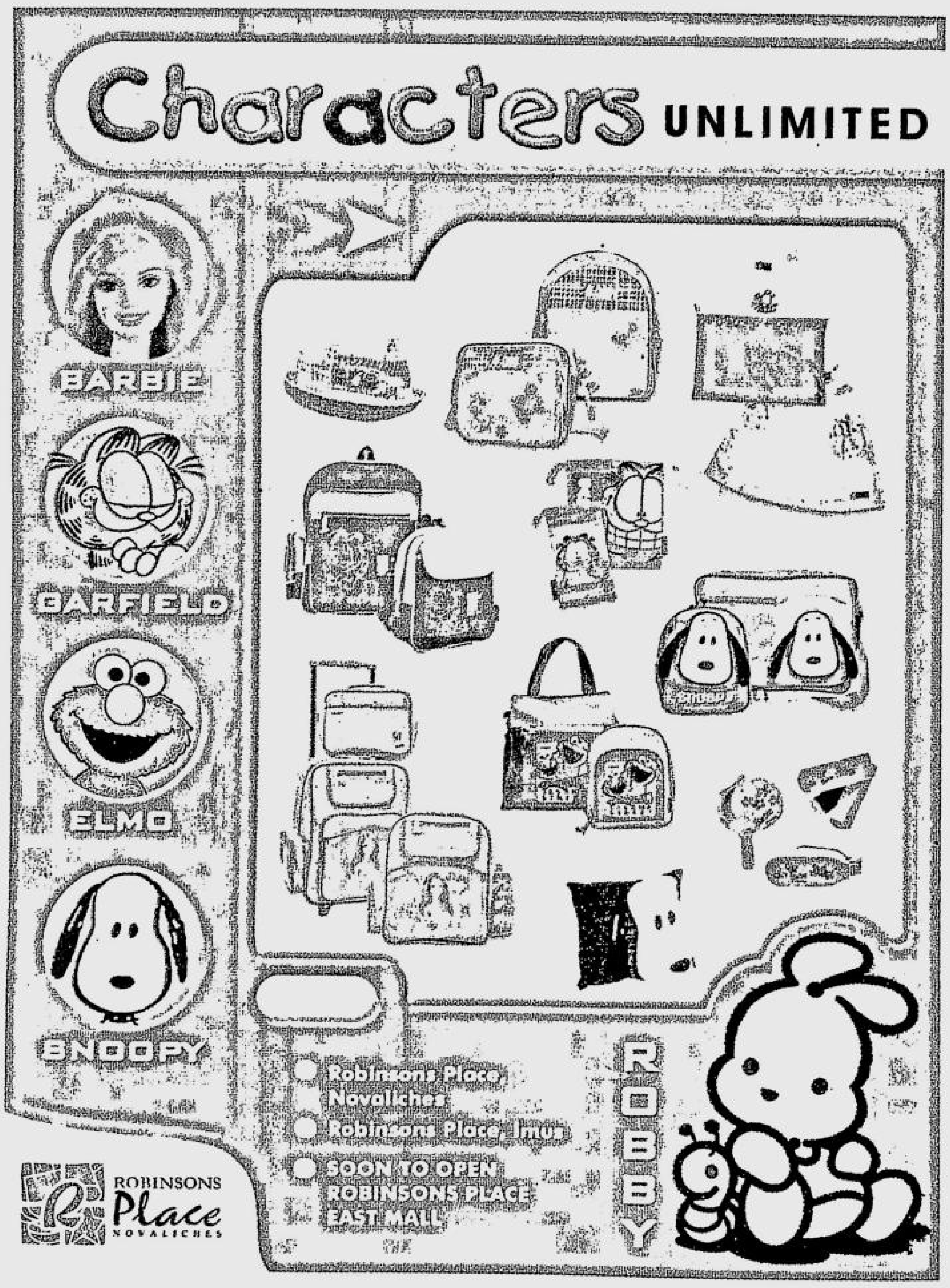

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The makeup pro to the rescue

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ
PHOTOS BY PATRICK UY

M.A.C. Cosmetics will open its first free-standing boutique in the Philippines next week. The store is just across Rustan's Bon Apetit in Glorietta 4. When M.A.C.'s international training manager Aranka Brown visited Manila recently to hold workshops, participants, mostly makeup artists and junkies, salivated like Pavlov's dogs as they tested the whole range.

Asked why there's such a big demand for M.A.C., Brown explained, "It's made by professionals for professionals. The pigments are color-densed. The range is unlike another. The brush cleanser cleanses and conditions."

M.A.C. has more than 140 shades of lipsticks, more than 130 eye shadows and 61 brushes. Using a makeup brush in M.A.C. is just as essential as using chopsticks when eating Chinese or Japanese food.

"One thing with M.A.C. you need to try it on. It's a hands-on line," said Brown.

Made by pros

M.A.C. was developed 16 years ago by Frank Toscan and the late photographer Frank Angelo. They saw the need for a makeup that would not only be dramatic under the lights and cameras but also offer colors that were hip. In 1994 the Estee Lauder Company acquired majority interest and got full equity in 1998. M.A.C. is positioned as the market leader in the makeup artist segment.

While other brands would target a certain market, M.A.C. encompasses all genders (including transvestites), ages and races. "The M.A.C. culture stems from the love of style, beauty, art of self-decoration and passion for the craft of makeup," said its press statement.

Equally important to the label's image is the M.A.C. Pro Team, composed of top makeup artists who are based in North America. They do everything from training the artists in the local makeup counters to fashion pictorials and runway shows.

Brown has been with M.A.C. for 11 years now. During her visit to Manila, she was surprised at the Filipinos' knowledge of the brand.

No mask

Brown was also amazed to learn that a lot of many local makeup artists still wet the eye shadows and foundations. "They argue with me about using water to fix it," she said. With the advancement of formulations, makeup is easier to apply and is almost mistake-proof.

"Some artists said they didn't even clean brushes in the past six months. Every time you put on makeup on someone's skin, you get oil and powders. Plus you've got too many colors in the brush," she said.

In one workshop, Brown showed how to create this season's look—the smoky eyes and almost nude lips. For starters, she applied Fast Response Eye Cream to hydrate the eye area. It has silicone that gives a silky feel to the skin. To get a dewy finish, she used Strobe Cream, which contains pearl pigments that give the luminescence on the skin. This base was followed by Hyper Real foundation.

I told her that Asians are so obsessed with skin that's free of all pigmentation. Thus, Filipinas tend to mask their skin.

"It's not very real. Skin is skin. I wouldn't try to hide things," said Brown. She recommended Hyper Real foundation that gives glow to the skin without covering it. The other foundations are Satin Finish, Matte Finish and Studio Fix, which can be wet or dry.

"In the Philippines everyone wets everything. You get a different coverage depending if you use a sponge or brush for a softer or sheer look," she says.

She observed that older women feel they have to cover their wrinkles. "The more makeup you put on the flaws, the more things get worse. It's better to emphasize things that make you comfortable with. If they get fine lines and trace more foundation to cover them, makeup looks more unnatural. Focus more on beautiful brows or beautiful lips or add more mascara rather than try to hide. Too much foundation tends to draw more attention on them," she said.

Holiday makeup

On contouring, Brown observed women have a tendency to use their blush color instead of using a foundation that's a shade or two darker than their skin tone.

Many local artists like to play up on a high-bridge nose. "To contour, you darken the sides of the nose to make it more of a bridge. The shadow has to be very soft for natural light. When you're looking in white light, you don't want them to see your makeup. I don't want people to say, 'I see two stripes on the sides of your nose or more colors in your eye shadow.'"

A highlighter is used on top of the cheekbone or any feature that you want to focus on. To shape the eyebrows, Brown applies taupe shadow with an angled brush. Pencils tend to give the brows a harsh look. Since they have more wax than an eye shadow, the light reflects on it and emphasizes the brows.

For the eyes, Brown applied the M.A.C.'s holiday color Beauty Marked, a deep blackened red with a sparkling effect. She used a pencil brush (#219). "It gets the paint, rolls in the color and gives it a smoky effect without a hard line," she said.

For contrast, she used dark blue along the lash lines, using an angled brush (#266), to get a sharp definition along the lash line to get depth.

"You don't always need to have a brown eye shadow with brown liner. I mixed with blue to get depth," she said.

M.A.C. offers tints to correct skin tones such as dark circles under the eyes or camouflage spider veins. These are professional products favored for pictorials.

"Color correctors are for pros. For the everyday customer, foundation and concealers do the job. For shoots where there are tight shots, the white light picks up everything and magnifies it. If the foundation doesn't cover up the job, the tint does. It's more specialized," she says.

False eyelashes are back

To get a better curl, Brown prefers to curl lashes after mascara has been applied. The problem with curling before application is that lashes get straight again. M.A.C.'s Pro Lash has water-resistant not waterproof mascara. It comes off easily.

"If you wear contacts, it doesn't leave a film on your eye. You can cry and it doesn't cry as long as you don't rub it. Once you break the polymers down, the mascara will come off. If you just dab your eyes, the makeup will get dry and you're fine," she said.

To underscore its image as a professional line, Brown caps off the eye makeup with false eyelashes. You can wear them for as much as 12 times.

For the lips, just about every M.A.C. user owns Spice lip pencil, which goes with any skin tone and sexy lip gloss.

If you're in a hurry, try Strobe Cream as the base, top with Studio Fix powder, apply mascara, taupe shadow for the lashes, red lipstick like Merry Mistress and burgundy lip liner. You're done.

There's one important lesson we all learned from Brown. Let's learn to love our features. Makeup is not for masking but for self-expression.

(See sidebar on E8)

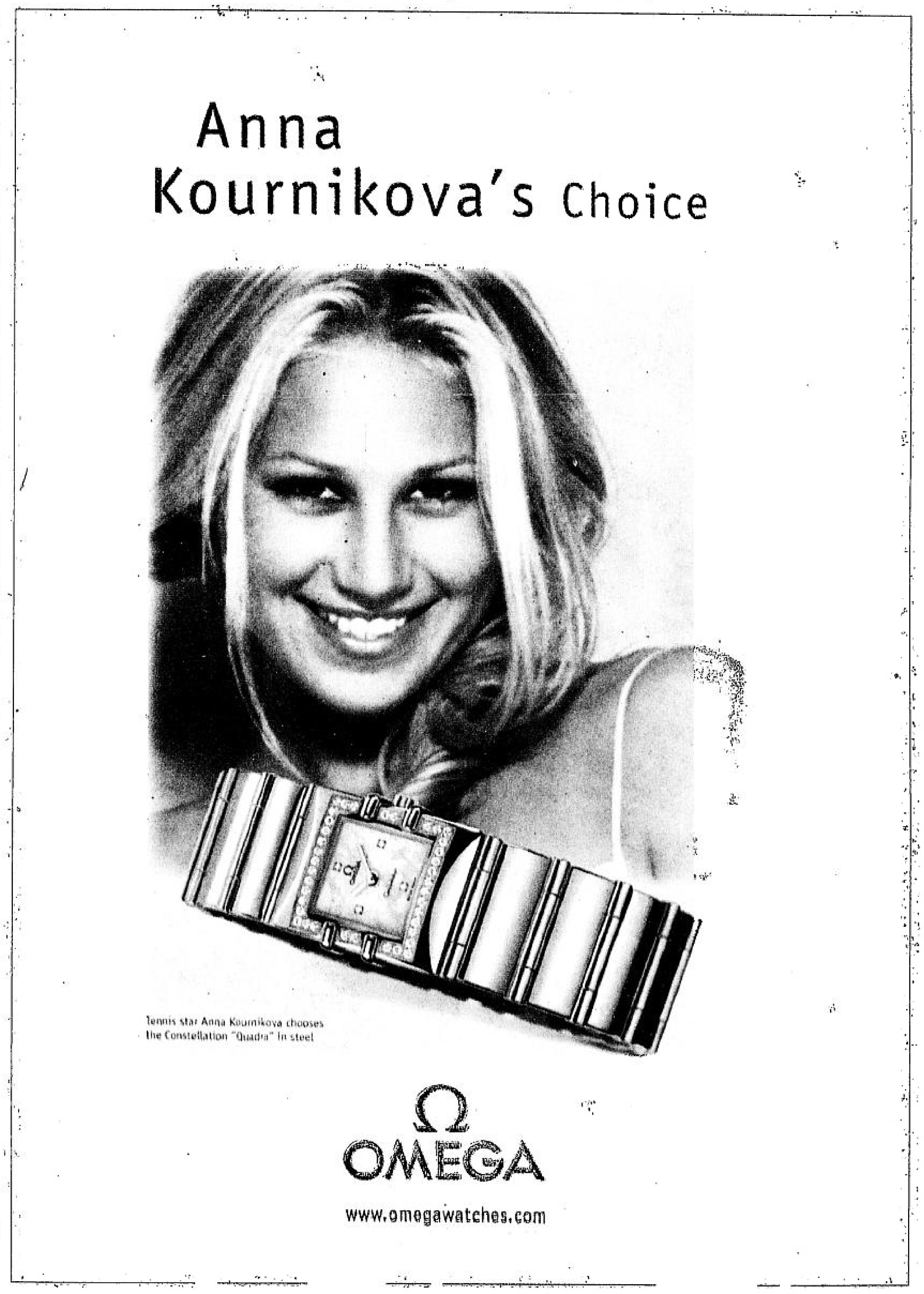
MODELS: MICHAL CRUZ, EVELYN UY
MAKEUP: ARANKA BROWN OF THE M.A.C. PRO TEAM
HAIR: LOURD RYAN RAMOS OF EMPHASIS
CLOTHES: ENSEMBLES

DOLLED-UP. This season's look is a play of pastel fondant shades. The Strobe Cream with red pearl pigments gives a luminescent look. Pretty Twisted, a clean aqua green shadow, is applied close to the lash line and extended to the outside edge. The Vanilla base is placed in the inner corner of the eye and brings out the green. Taupe shadow shapes the eyebrows. Since Michal has naturally pink lipstick, Aranka colored her lips with Girlfriend, a pastel pink, and lined it with Spice pencil, a neutral lip liner. The All Over Lacquer Twinkle is a gloss with gold glitter.

BLACK-TIED. This is a sexy but elegant look. The eyes are colored in Night Owl, a deep midnight black base with deep royal blue sparkles. Eye makeup is emphasized on the outer edge. Eye pencil is added for drama. White Frost highlights the brow bone. The lips are Velvet Teen, a rich berry burgundy.

FOR EVELYN Uy, mother of three, here's makeup that's easy. For the natural look, cheeks are the focus. Eyes are colored in basic Mylar, a whitish beige base, and brown. Lips are lined with Spice and shine added with Lip Glass.

EVENING LOOK FOR EVELYN. Deep purple paint, a new eye color that starts off as a cream and dries into powder, adds depth. The mouth is colored in sheer plum, a shade called Desire. Finish the look with soft false eyelaches.



Anna Kournikova's Choice

Tennis star Anna Kournikova chooses the Constellation "Quadra" in steel

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M.A.C.'s must-buys

IF you're building a makeup repertoire, Brown suggests the following essentials:

- Start with skin care. M.A.C. Lignettes towelettes wipe off grime and makeup instantly and hydrate the skin.
- Fast Response Eye Cream makes a good shadow base. It also contains caffeine for soothing tired eyes.
- Studio Moisture Fix is great for daily any skin type. ("Foundation stays longer if the skin is hydrated. If you use foundation with too much oil, then you have problems with its setting. Our moisturizers absorb easily. It's like giving your face a drink of water as opposed to adding oil slick to your skin," said Brown.)
- For basic eye makeup, get a base color and combine it with brown. Try Mylar, Vanilla Brulle or shadows with beige tones. They go with any outfit. For shading, try neutral brown, red brown, golden brown or any color that matches skin tone and hair. M.A.C. shadows are used both for lining the eyes and coloring the eyes. You can use the same color with a different brush to make it smoky.
- For variety, get bright colors such as blue and violet. Use a stiff brush for a bright effect and a soft brush for a wash of color.
- Lip Glass is easy, portable and sexy. Most people look good in it no matter what age. There's no need to be precise unlike red lipstick.
- Get good blush color that has pink tones or golden brown. The blusher should make you glow from within rather than putting a stripe of color on the face.
- Because M.A.C. products contain strong pigments, it's important to use the right tools. Brown recommends the staples: a wide, flat eye brush (#252), a short, angled brush (#266) and a powder blush (#129). If you're using liquid foundation, M.A.C. has developed a wide and flat synthetic brush for that. Put the foundation at the back of the hand, get the color using the brush. Apply the color on the face. Brush from the center of the face and blend outward as it fades out.

Hilarious fictional take on fashion world

New York-based Filipina fashion editor and novelist Melissa de la Cruz pokes fun at style icons and wannabes who take themselves seriously. There's even a new journalistic title, 'editrix,' which means a dominatrix of a fashion editor

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Cat's Meow
By Melissa de la Cruz
Illustrations by Kim de Marco
Simon & Schuster, 2001

BY CHERISH GARCIA-HERNANDEZ

REVIEW

CAT McAllister is a former child star, ex-model and an heiress of sorts who lives on a trust fund. She spends her days shopping at Barney's, "maxing" out her credit cards and getting facials, manicures, colonics and what not. At the end of the day, she goes home to her Park Avenue Penthouse where she has an indispensable Sri Lankan *au pair* named Bannerjee who does the difficult job of alphabetizing her clothes by designer. But Cat's not happy. She's stuck in the "seventh circle of celebrity hell," her fiancée Brockton Moorehouse Winthrop III just left her for a Victoria's Secret model named Pasha, and Citibank has been calling to tell her that her funds are overdrawn.

Melissa de la Cruz, senior fashion editor at the online magazine Hintmag.com and author of "Cat's Meow," introduces us to a character everyone would love to hate. After all, who could actually empathize with such an asinine character? Cat, however, turns out to be so curiously endearing that we find ourselves praying that she finally snags Stephan, the Eastern European prince she has set her sights on because we can't imagine her living life on a budget. Think Cher in "Clueless" or Elle in "Legally Blonde" and you get the picture.

Forced to lease out her Penthouse and move to the Mercer Hotel, Cat sets out to find a job. Wearing a fur-trimmed Fendi black-leather jumpsuit she sets out for Conde Nast-y because, she "would settle for nothing less than a position at Vogue, Harper's Bazaar, Elle,or W." Having been offered nothing but a paltry editorial assistant's job, Cat declines. Her friend India, "New York's reigning postoperative transsexual," convinces her to join Arbiteur, a new online magazine (that sounds a lot like Hintmag) on the verge of IPO. At the same time Cat decides to adopt a Chinese baby to impress her prince, who is, after all, a member of the Chinese Orphan Society of New York. Life looks good for a while with her new editrix status, a new TriBeCa loft, and a baby named Boing.

Eventually though, things start to unravel, threatening Cat's standard of living once more. Luckily, like all fairy tales, everything works out in the end and our protagonist lives happily ever after.

Hilarious

"Cat's Meow" is a light, easy read and a hilarious spoof of the fashion world and New York society. It is a ticket to VIP lounges, wannabe socialites, anorexic models and the dizzying vacuous lifestyle that most New York fashionistas breathed, at least pre-World Trade Center attack. (The mood is much more subdued nowadays, I hear). Even in the height of its silliness, "Cat's Meow" is addictive. We follow Cat's adventures in the same way we secretly devour the latest gossip of our favorite celebrities, fascinated by a world that is as alluring as it is revolting.

De la Cruz, who by the way is a Filipina who moved to the United States when she was 12, has the ability to wittily satirize her subject matter so effortlessly that it is just pure entertainment. It's about time someone chastised an industry that takes itself too seriously, often declaring what is "so last year" and what's "hot," and the people that perpetuate their influence. (We have to admit we are guilty of this!) Even the very people she pokes fun at might be amused. We found her countless allusions to actual people and places hilarious, (everyone from amazon.com's Jeff Bezos to Madonna's baby, Rocco Ritchie, have a cameo) and her penchant for '80s' references was not lost on us. India's gossip column called Depeche Merde definitely takes the cake here.

Just newly published, try to get a hold of this fabulous book with the most adorable illustrations by Kim de Marco. It is a must-read for anyone who is remotely interested in fashion—whether fashion editor, fashion model, fashionisata or wannabe. It is also a great excuse to take your mind off the stark realities of today as well. If you liked Lee Tulloch's "Fabulous Nobody" and Jay McInerney's "Story of My Life," then you'll definitely like "Cat's Meow." Not a great literary feat here, but one of the most satisfying and enjoyable reads I've had in recent years.

E-mail the author cherishgh@yahoo.com

There's no dumping Malate

(From page E1)

exist in the night without police structures. You park your car at the Circle and the boys from the nearby urban poor guarded it even with no hard bargaining of fees.

This was why when **Larry Cruz**, whose Café Adriatico started it all, of course, asked us to edit and write for this book on Malate, we relished the chance, and so did our essayists—**Doreen Fernandez, Krip Yuson, Apa Ongpin, Floy Quintos, Ambeth Ocampo, Michaela Fenix, Alya Honasan**. Writing about Adriatico and Malate is traveling back to moments of our personal lives.

It was at Café Adriatico, I remember, where **Gang Gomez** told me, before the whole Manila could find out, that he was leaving his stellar career in fashion design to enter the Benedictine monastery. There at sunset, we talked deep and long about what we wanted out of life, and in Gang's case, it was no longer fame and wealth that he was after, but spirituality.

It was also in Malate where Ambeth broke the news to me, even before his family could find out, that he was also joining the Benedictine monks, so that later I could only wonder in amusement what it was about the place that made my good friends confess to their need to leave the world as we had enjoyed it.

Late one night, many years ago, after seeing the body of our murdered friend, **Caloy Badidoy**, the brilliant designer, lying in state at Malate Church, **Auggie Cordero** asked me to take him to Café Adriatico so he could grieve in private, away from the church crowd.

It was also in this Café where one night, long after deadline, INQUIRER's "Mrs. M" (the editor in chief to you, dear reader) heard out my goodbye to INQUIRER as its Lifestyle editor, over glasses of red wine. (Turned out, it was a mini goodbye for not long after I began this column, I visited the newsroom late night after night for more glasses of red wine and stimulating chat.)

Personal moments

But beyond our personal moments, Malate has become a landmark in the country's culturescape. While richer countries like Singapore, for instance, spent resources and followed a master design to build their touristy night enclaves, Malate just came to be.

Café Adriatico
BAR & RES
JED E.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

In her essay, Doreen Fernandez, the authority with a most vivid memory, recalled the Manila we never came to know, from which Malate descended. "From Casa Marcos all the way to the Port Area we had a nightclub and restaurant 'strip'. Friends checked in to ask who was around. Mila, who sold roses from the club to café, also circulated news. The men had watched her grow up, and would pay her to give roses to their girl friends on dates with others. Thus we learned about romances and aspirations, aided and abetted by the times and the people."

What's interesting about Malate is its ability to reinvent itself through the decades. Director **Butch Perez** put it so well in Apa's essay: "You know, this Malate thing, it comes in waves. One year, Malate is 'in,' the next year, not. But each succeeding wave is bigger and lasts longer."

Indeed just when people were beginning to dump Malate for the Fort, in came Nakpil. And now as some people are about to write off Malate again for, say, Libis, the Remedios Circle is being redefined yet again with the addition of more night havens, three gay bars included. Just off Nakpil, **Chito Vijandre** and **Ricky Toledo** of Firma fame are opening in a few weeks a Moroccan resto called Fidel, with exotic waiters cast for the part. Larry is converting the 1900 into a *tapas* bar with Spanish-Mediterranean cuisine. And where **Dante Ramirez**'s showroom was, will stand a high-rise.

"The place keeps renewing itself," Larry explains why Malate refuses to die in a trend-enslaved Metro Manila. "Just keep the place clean and well-lighted—and no nouveau architecture—and Malate will live on."

Last place

We certainly hope so. Metro Manila is getting uglier. It's a metropolis of trash, bad roads, tricycles on the highways, ill-designed flyovers, squatters—the constituents of the city mayors. It's so congested that you realize the greater poverty in the provinces must be driving this poor down to the cities where they squat anywhere.

Malate is the last place in Metro Manila that has charm and inborn quaintness. It should not be overrun by high-rises and mall-like structures with uniform boring architecture, the way Makati or Ortigas has been. We wonder though how much longer can real estate developers stay away and not take over the bohemian entrepreneurs of Malate.

In the meantime Malate lives its moments—a unique brand of gentility in this high-tech era, a space of diversion from a rotting metropolis.

"Had fun in Malate," our friend texted me shortly after we left Café Adriatico at way past midnight. The night being far from over for people his age, he met up with friends in Makati where, he'd say the next day, the fun wasn't quite the same.

Martha Stewart thrives amid anthrax

Or make that because of the anthrax scare. Americans, whose classic paranoia has at last found good basis, are apparently staying at home more than ever. Cocooning has never been more prevalent than it is now, if you were to believe lifestyle guru **Martha Stewart**.

It's been in the news that while the US is in dire straits, the Martha Stewart firm enjoyed a 25 percent growth in the third quarter, its $69.6 million revenues up by 13 percent from last year.

In a cable interview Martha said this business surge amid hard times is due to the fact that Americans now want to do more things at home. Easily Martha Stewart is the most successful brand extension.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@link.com.ph

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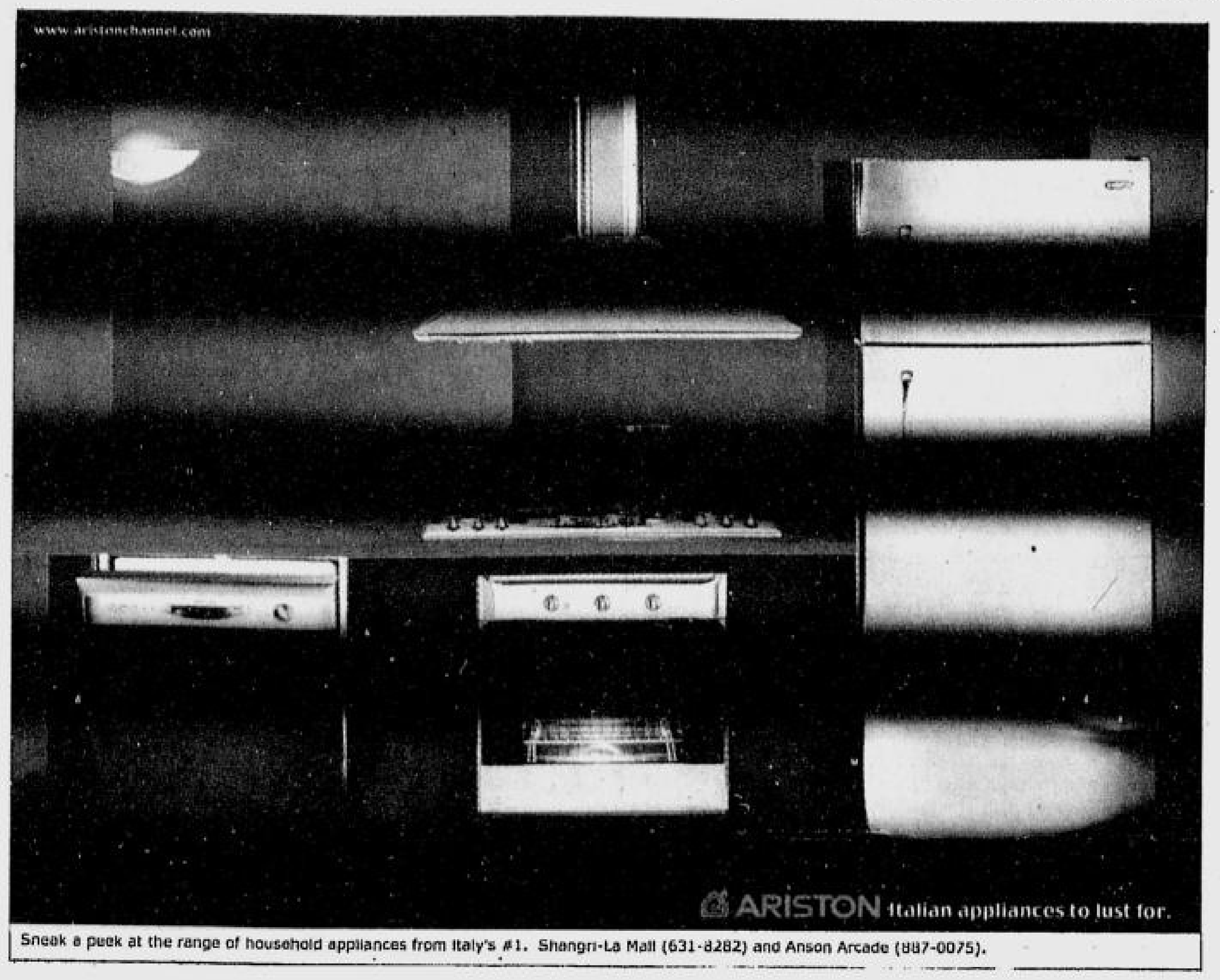
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Tiles make the design grade

By Cathy Saldana-Nolido

THE HOME, our personal comfort zone, our place of familiar bond and rest, is a veritable reflection of our lifestyles, tastes, parameters and aspirations. Taken part by part, it is a consolidated mix of materials, from wood to glass, from concrete to fabric. It is a creation that stems from layering materials by segments, through sections, with science and art combining well to achieve a structurally stable and aesthetically pleasant product. Among the materials fondest to the heart are those that spin a variety of styles and patterns.

This series is essentially a summary of the choices, striking not a technical chord but lending a stream of appreciation for and awareness of the creative options. Primarily, we showcase the tile—used on the floor, on the wall, on furniture as accents, on solid surfaces, combined with plants and earth.

Tiles as history

The use of tiles, whether natural, ceramic, stone or synthetic, has been a part of great design history through the years. From old palaces to public buildings, the use of tiles on floors and walls has been at the forefront—from the Islamic world through the Medieval Period, from the Old Dutch reign to the Victorian era, stretching through the Arts and Crafts movement into the 20th Century. Into the new millennium, we find ourselves very much graced by the possibilities that these versatile materials offer, excited still by the colors and patterns that continuously emerge out of factories in Italy primarily, in other parts of Europe and even in Asia.

In the Philippines, the ceramic tile is the most common among the tile ranges. It is very flexible for a variety of surface applications. The broad selections allow for a myriad of patterns, color combinations, textures and dimensions. Further, their ease of maintenance makes them a prime choice.

Fired earth, terracotta and baked clay tiles are among the most charming kinds. They have excellent weatherability, with a quality that absorbs heat when needed and keeps a house cool on hot summers. Those that emerge out of old factories in Italy and our very own *tisa* tiles from Cebu are the best in terms of porosity, glaze and durability.

The Machuka tile, proudly Philippine made, has been reinvented through its classification of uses, from the floor to the facade of homes, to top surfaces. Interestingly enough, this tile's durability is traced not only to the stately floors of old Manila homes but also to the grand aisle of churches and restaurant dining areas.

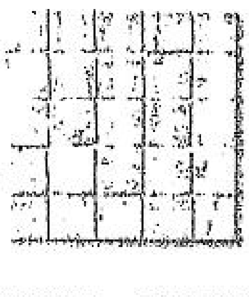
Stone tiles are the best to use in design schemes that maximize natural elements. Ara-al stone, a rich local resource, espouses color palettes of red, brown and gray. It can be crazy-cut, grid-arranged or layered in slabs. Limestone and sandstone generate wonderful ideas for surfaces. Treatment must be given though to ensure that glazes are maintained. A check on the porosity and the site's pollution would have to be made. With the application of certain compounds, the natural stone may still "breath" and yet maintain a clean appearance on the facade. Mixing river pebbles with these natural stones, otap rocks and gravel provide color palettes in blue, russet, charcoal gray and beige.

Granite is a flexible material that has gained more favor over marble on some top surface applications. Whether flamed or polished, the appeal of this material is in the distinct specks and sheen that gain further brilliance with proper lighting.

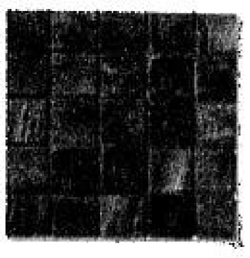
Marble

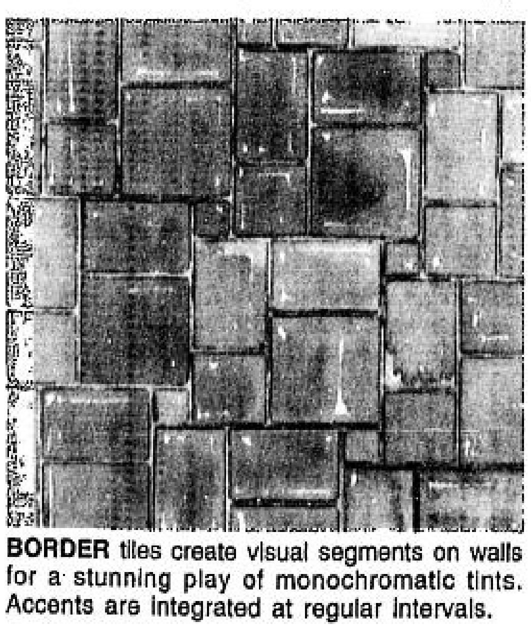
While marble is now used less on counter tops by knowledgeable designers, it is still a popular material for flooring. Local varieties from Romblon or Bulacan make the grade for a compact home. The use of granite

TILES/p.F5

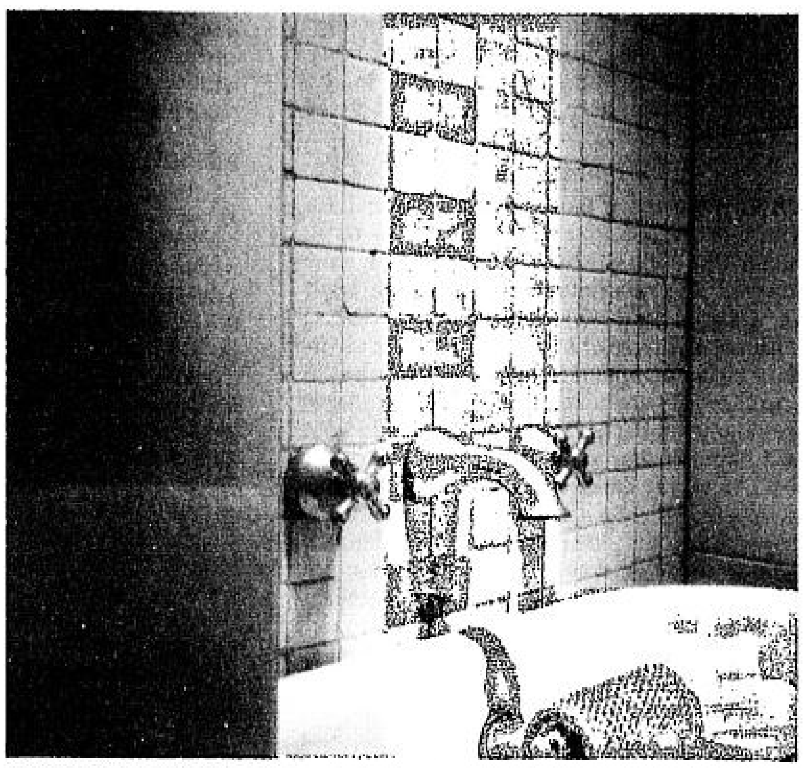


FLOOR and wall surfaces create an enduring mood for any room. Natural sources show fine grain variations exquisitely mimicked on glazed tiles.





BORDER tiles create visual segments on walls for a stunning play of monochromatic tints. Accents are integrated at regular intervals.



FROM THE SAME series of designs, a border-insert tile in glazed porcelain cuts through a linear arrangement interspersed with a diagonal layout. Tiles are also used to line the walls as a baseboard.

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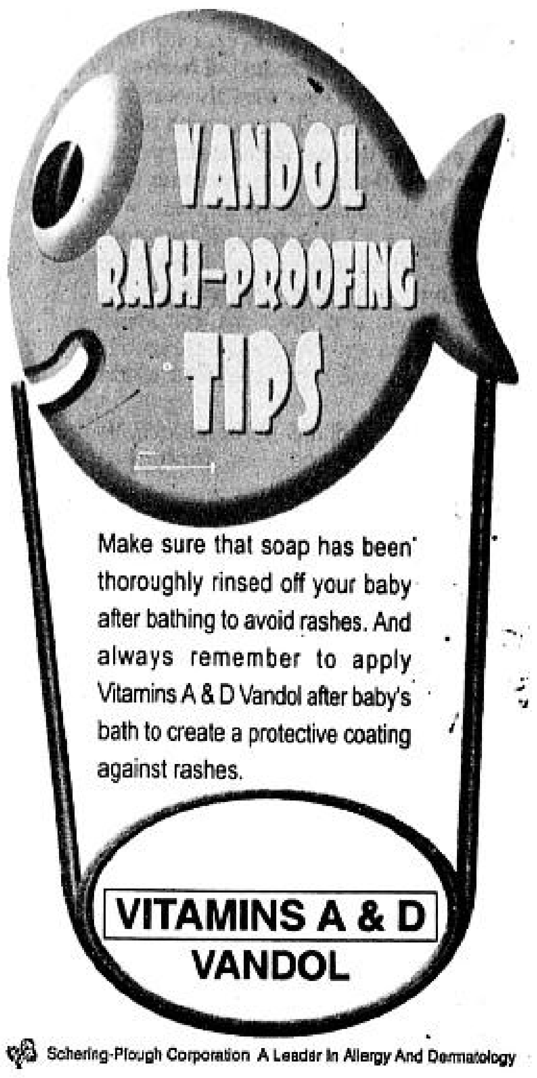
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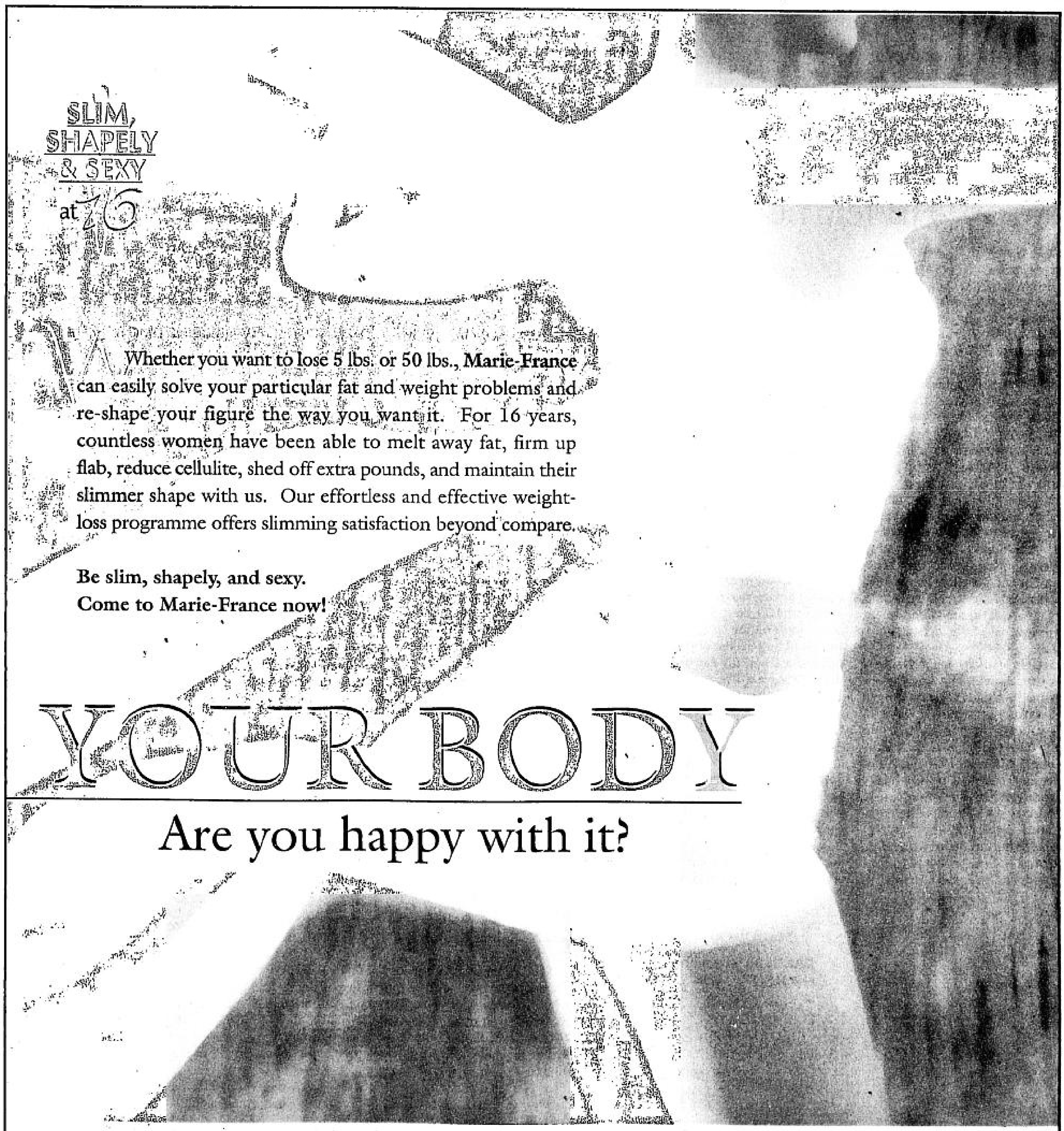
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The greening of Katipunan

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

KATIPUNAN Avenue has always been a busy thoroughfare. But these days it's busier than ever, and the sounds one hears are more than just of horns tooting or people at work. Trees and flowers are being planted and as their leaves swish as they play with a passing breeze, there is the promise that Katipunan will wake up to a greener tomorrow.

This is the message of a poem written by Annie S. Cruz, a Katipunan resident, and read by a Miriam College student during the launching of a community project called The Greening of Katipunan. While it is the trees that speak in the poem, they express the thoughts, emotions and needs of everyone who lives and works in the area.

"Greening," explains Annie, essentially means creating a pleasant and clean atmosphere along Katipunan's stretch, and this includes residential areas, offices, shops, food outlets and the schools and universities that have become landmarks of the area. And to the community, the first step to creating this atmosphere is to plant trees along both sides of the road, and to beautify all available space. There will then be less dust, more shade to provide everyone with clean air and pleasant surroundings.

Katipunan, recently widened, stretches from White Plains to UP Diliman. It includes Miriam College, Ateneo de Manila University, Kostka and other preschools, business establishments, banks and food outlets. It is also the site of several residential "villages" where the greening project is a major concern.

Continuity

The present project is a continuation of an earlier one that seemed to have been energized with greater multisectoral participation. It was formally launched last October at Miriam's main entrance on Katipunan, with a program of songs, speeches, poems and pledges of assistance as main features. To Annie, such sounds catalyzed the greening movement in Katipunan and have drawn the attention of even those not directly involved.

Along with the pledges, there were donations of saplings like *neem* and *banaba*, yellow bell vines, ornamental flowers, garden soil, labor and manpower and other services. They come from civic organizations like Rotary Club of Loyola Heights and Barangay Loyola Heights, from White Plains commercial gardens, and from practically everyone along the avenue.

> At the launching of the project, poems were read, trees and saplings were donated, labor and services were pledged

Annie's poem, titled "Himig ng Mga Puno sa Katipunan," was probably the most lyrical during the formal launching. It was both thanksgiving and plea that the trees, cut down when the avenue was being widened some years back, were being replaced by new plantings to keep the old surviving ones company. It ended with a hope that the trees would be well cared for as a legacy to the future.

Annie is more than a poet with a green cause. She is an active participant in the project. The response to that October launching, she reports, has been overwhelming. There have been hitches, of course. Diggers, for instance, have found they could not plant in the center islands because they had been cemented. But there is no giving in to helplessness.

The Rotary Club of Loyola Heights appealed to the Department of Public Works and Highways to do something about the islands so trees could be planted in them again.

Miriam drummed up attention to the problem by tying yellow ribbons on some acacias and *talisays* along the service roads from Shoppersville Supermarket to Burgundy Condominium. The DENR donated 650 trees of varied species.

Laborers and gardeners of the Metro Manila Development Authority literally started from scratch, as the soil they planted in was mainly rubble from the drilled cement. Construction sites, however, donated soil from their diggings for use in the center islands. Instead of trees, gardeners are now planting shrubs and smaller plants that can thrive in less-friendly soil on the islands.

Teamwork

Annie was one of those who saw the need for planting trees and sought advice on how to go about it. She got it from the likes of Dr. Angelina Galang of Miriam's Environmental Science Institute, who told her to go ahead, and of Sr. Marissa Lichauco, in-charge of Miriam's garden beautification program, who told her that it was best to tie up with a government office or LGU in order to get things going. That was when she found out that Katipunan was under the jurisdiction of the MMDA, not the Quezon City administration as she first thought. So she went to Cora Cruz (no relation), assistant general manager of MMDA's planning division, who agreed to Annie's tree planting idea. It was after this that the project was launched.

As Annie describes it, support for the project is still coming in from different sectors. There are donations of funds and services; of discounted rates on materials like seedlings; and offers from tree planting volunteers. Annie herself is in direct contact with the laborers and the gardeners.

A central greening plan has been laid out to give Katipunan a well-ordered look from UP to Miriam, Ateneo, Blue Ridge and Loyola Grand Villas. Plants and trees in these sections will be planted to complement each other.

The "greenies" of Katipunan expect that, by December, some of the trees will be in flower, and the bougainvillea in the plant boxes along the walkway between Miriam and a bank will be in full bloom. Annie, we are sure, will then be composing odes to nature and adding to the beautiful sounds of Katipunan.

He learned about loving and losing

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I am presently working in the Middle East. I am 28 with no girlfriend, no commitment and looking forward to meeting the best gift of my life. I believe that only God knows what is best for us at the proper time.

In 1997 I was still working in a busy center of Makati. Twice I received a wrong-number call from a lady asking if I knew her friend who was about to get married. I told my officemate that if she called again, she might become my girlfriend. She did call again, we talked, etc. She told me she was a daughter of one of the rich and famous families in the country. She lived in San Lorenzo Village, just a walk from my office and boarding house. I visited her and found her to be simple, sexy, smart, caring and humble. She gave me wonderful advice and inspiration.

I fell in love with her, but since I was just an ordinary employee, a province boy and the economic gap between us was quite wide, I thought she would ignore me. But she told me to forget the gap and just focus on our relationship. We even went twice on vacation to my province. I introduced her to my family and they liked her because of her simple and humble attitude. I was also hoping to be introduced to her parents, but she said she had to find the proper time, and she always avoided the topic afterward. Much later, she stopped talking to me. I realized the magic was gone; she broke her promises to my family and friends.

During the fading stage of our relationship, I met Josie during the wedding of my officemate. She had a good job, and she knew I had a girlfriend. One time, I just wanted to relax from my job and when I called my girlfriend to ask if she would like to watch a movie with me, her answer shocked me. She told me to ask anyone on the street. Luckily, just as I hung up the phone, Josie called to ask how my day was. Well, that started a warm relationship. We became more than friends but less than lovers.

I even accompanied her to her home in Marikina and was introduced to her mother and family. Josie said that if we were meant for each other, destiny would find its way. I have great regard and respect for her.

I prayed that I be given the opportunity to work in a place where I could relax, save money and help my family. And my prayer was answered. I was offered to work in the Middle East. Here, work is simple and systematic; no pollution, no vices and crimes. My departure was a rush and it took only three weeks to finish my papers. I kept my work secret and told my family and friends only when I was to leave the next day. Hours before my departure, I saw my ex-girlfriend in a shopping mall with a male companion. From here, I sent her a letter thanking her for the wonderful things she shared with me. She is now married.

Thank you for reading this letter. More power.

GARTER BOY

My assessment and advice, I'm sure, are already in your mind. You have been through a lot of joys and disappointments, but you have remained cool. Expressing yourself must have also made you breathe easier. My advice: thank the Lord for your blessings. He answered your prayer for a better work opportunity, so live each day to the fullest, offering each day to Him.

Josie was correct. If you are meant for each other, it will come to pass. If not, there are other roads ahead. And thank you for your letter, with the Saudi Arabian stamps. I have a granddaughter who collects stamps. And since you gave me your full address, readers who may want to write to you can send their letters properly stamped, enclosed in their letter to me.

He wants to be a butcher

MAY I ask for your help? During the time of Ferdinand Marcos, Pura Madlansacay, a research scientist at the Bureau of Animal Industry, wrote a booklet on "Animal Product Utilization (Meat Processing)." It was very simple and understandable. How can I secure a copy? I am a meat vendor at the Iloilo Central Market and would like to be a "butcher." Thank you and God bless.

VALENTIN C. ESLITA

The Bureau of Animal Industry may still have that copy, but they may even have better information now. I suggest you write to Lourdes Rivera, head of the Animal Product Development Center Project, and director of the Public Information Technology Promotion Services. Enclose postage stamps for what may be sent to you. The address of the Bureau of Animal Industry: BAI Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, QC.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

Light up your life

CANDLES in assorted shapes and sizes

CANDLES these days no longer serve the sole purpose of illumination. They come in assorted shapes and sizes, textures and forms, colors and designs. They cozy up interiors, romance bedrooms and even perfume bathrooms.

Amazingly, they soothe the stressed-out soul. They can even set the mood where one would feel his soul's sensitivity to every stimulus around.

Experience a candlelit lifestyle with Marks & Spencer's Home Land Range that offers a variety of decorative and scented candles. Available in stores now are Pillar Candle with base, Mini Cube Candle with base, Patterned Ball Candle and Flower and Animal Votives (three in a pack). Autumn scents available are Shoreline, Autumn Berries and Fallen leaves.

Marks & Spencer is exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Specialists Inc.

Christmas garden show in Alabang

PLANTS and Flowers Unlimited with Ayala Corp. will hold an exhibit and sale of orchids and ornamental plants used for holiday décor and gift-giving at the garden center beside Rustan's Supermarket, Ayala, Alabang Town Center in Muntinlupa City, from Nov. 10 to Dec. 31.

On display are ornamental plants such as orchids, bromeliads, poinsettias, kalanchoe, vincas, petunias, gerberas, euphorbia, coleus, hydrangea, cacti and many more. There will also trees such as cypress, pines, ficus, podocarpus, asitokas, cycads and other species. Also on sale are herb plants, dish gardens, terrariums, hanging plant baskets, dried herb spices, preserved fruits and other delicacies.

The exhibit will be enhanced by colorful array of line birds from the collection of Dr. Danny Ang such as parakeets, English budgerigars, African love birds, canaries, finches, conures and many more. Ang will also talk on the proper care, breeding, nutrition, housing, parasite- and disease-control of different varieties of pet birds on Nov. 10 at 4 p.m.

Other lectures include "Phalaenopsis Culture" by Dr. Olivia Sanchez of Blooms Ave., Nov. 17; "Care and Grooming of Imported Furry Guinea Pig" by Vic Chin Jr., Nov. 24; "Bromeliad Production" by Linda Lim, Dec. 1; "Growing Cattleyas" by C.V. Lazaro, Dec. 8; "The Dog—Man's Best Friend" by Fred Salud, Dec. 15; and "Cut Flowers" by Lita Ibarra, Dec. 22.

Participating in the exhibit are Valesol, Haven the Flower Box, Nel's Cactus Garden, Genesis Garden, Pepito Cesario, Gintong Talulot Garden, Pam's Garden, Mabuhay Orchids, US Orchids and Ornamentals, Matias Garden, Melvin's Home Decor, Polly's Garden, Greenworld Orchids, Blooms Venue, Brenda's Garden and many more.

Makati launches special-issue stamp

GOINGS-ON

THE CITY of Makati is launching a special issue stamp approved by the Philippine Postal Corp., 6 p.m. today at the new City Hall. The stamp will honor the rise of the once swampland into the country's premiere city and undisputed financial district of the Philippines.

FREEBIES. Enchanted Kingdom is giving away complimentary Wizard Money worth P50 to weekday Ride-All-You-Can ticket buyers until Nov. 30. Initially available in P50 denomination, the Wizard Money can be used to purchase admission tickets from the park's front gate and Makati sales office and food and gift items from the park's various outlets and kiosks. To avail, simply present a clipped newspaper advertisement or an SMS/Text coupon via Globe (PEX EK magic; send to 2333) or Smart (coupon EKmagic; send to 211) of its ongoing promo, "Weekday, Weekend Magic at EK." In December, the Wizard Money will be available in P100 denomination. Call 830-2111 to -16 (Makati) or 843-6073 to -78 (Laguna).

EXHIBIT. The gallery Ivydell presents a group Christmas painting exhibit and art sale Nov. 10, 5 p.m. at the G/L Gallery Building, Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. Call 816-0904.

CONFERENCE. Desert Stream, a worldwide ministry headed by Andy Cominskey, is holding a three-day conference dubbed "Totoo Ka Ba?—Pursuing Sexual and Relational Wholeness" at Makati Cinema Square until Nov.12. Cominskey, who has worked extensively with the healing of the sexually and relationally broken will discuss topics that include Identifying and Healing the Roots of Sexual and Relational Brokenness, Restoring True Manhood and Womanhood, The Church as a Healing Community, and Becoming Agents of Hope and Healing for Others. Call 817-8978.

FASHION SHOW. The Uno High School Alumni Association Inc. presents "12 Dose," a Christmas fashion show featuring holiday clothes of Croco Kids, Byloz, Bossini, La Pagayo, Karuna and some members of the Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines, Nov. 11, 3 p.m., at the Centennial Hall of The Manila Hotel. Models will include Uneans, UHSAAI members and friends. The homecoming will also honor jubilarians Class '61 (Ruby), Class '71 (Pearl) and Class '76 (Silver). Proceeds of the event will go to the UHSAAI Scholarship Fund. Call 711-5068, 242-9074 or 252-1910.

CONFERENCE. The Philippine Librarians Association Inc. will hold a national conference on "PLAI 2001 and Beyond: Strengthening Partnerships and Linkages" Nov. 13-15, at the Manila Midtown Hotel, Pedro Gil corner M. Adriatico Street, Ermita, Manila. Call 527-9071 local 44, 524-9740 or 899-4343.

SEMINAR. ProActive Center for Training offers a seminar-workshop until Nov. 14, 1-5 p.m. at Cafe Astoria at the lobby of Astoria Plaza, J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Call 878-5231 or 823-4947.

LECTURE. World-renowned UN ambassador for peace and noted peace educator, Dr. Charles Mercieca, Ph.D., professor emeritus of Alabama A&M University and president of the International Association of Educators for World Peace, will arrive in Manila to conduct a lecture series on world peace. Lectures will be held Nov. 11 (2-5 p.m.), Nov. 12 (2-5 p.m.), Nov. 13 (9 a.m.-12 noon/ 2-5 p.m.), Nov. 14 (2-5 p.m.) at the Century Park Hotel, Manila. Call 317-7015 to 16.

SEMINAR. The Center for Learning and Teaching Styles Phils., an affiliate of the International Learning Styles Network based at St. John's University in New York, is sponsoring a special one-day seminar-workshop designed for teachers and parents. Dubbed "What Teachers and Parents Need to Know About Learning," it will be held on Nov. 17 at Sienna College, Del Monte, QC. Call 374-4967 or 936-6790.

WORKSHOP. The Filipinas Heritage Library is hosting "Tell Me More! Storytelling for Children" on Nov. 17, 9 a.m.-12 nn. Melody Remorca, top placer of the National Finals in Salaysayan, a storytelling competition hosted by Philippine Board of Books for the Young, comes back with more delightful folklore and art workshop for kids 4-10 years old. Filipinas Heritage Library is on Makati Avenue opposite The Peninsula Manila. Admission is P80. Call 892-1801.

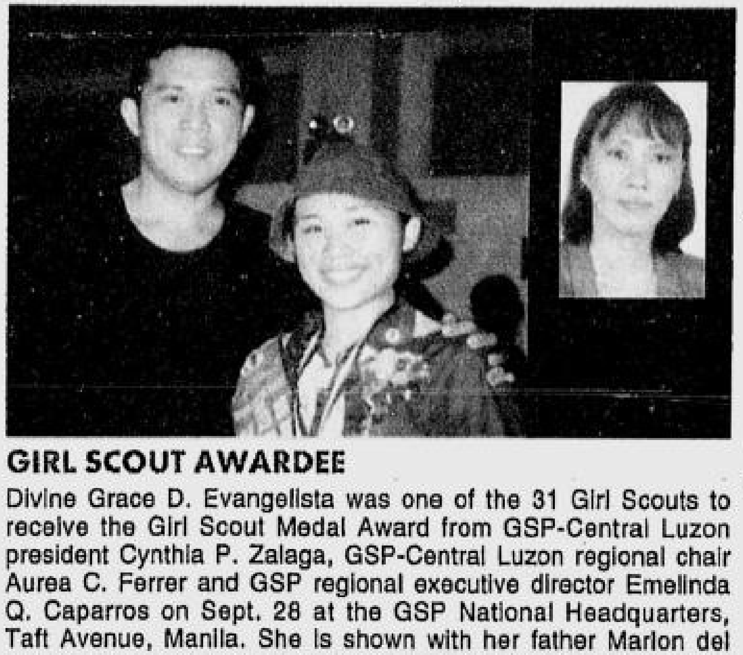
SEMINAR. A free seminar on Marian dogmas will be conducted by the Missionaries of Mary Nov. 18 at the Catholic Charismatic Institute, Scout Santiago corner Scout Rallos Streets, QC. Topics include Perpetual Virginity, Assumption of Mary and Marialis Cultus (True Devotion to Mary). Call 743-8729.

TOYMAKING. Adarna House will host a toymaking workshop at Powerbooks Megamall and Alabang Town Center Nov. 18 and 24 respectively, 2:30-4 p.m. Dubbed "Toys and Games for Stories," the workshop was conceptualized by author Carleen Sacris for parents and teachers based on the premise that children nowadays would much rather play video games than read. The workshop will have a brief discussion on how parents and other adults can find ways where love for reading can be nurtured, after which a toy-making workshop will be facilitated using simple steps and easy-to-find materials. The workshop has limited slots. Call 410-5200.

BAZAAR. The nonprofit International Bazaar Foundation Inc., organized by the Department of Foreign Affairs with the Diplomatic Corps and the Cabinet Ladies, is holding its 2001 International Bazaar Nov. 10 at Halls A and B of the World Trade Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

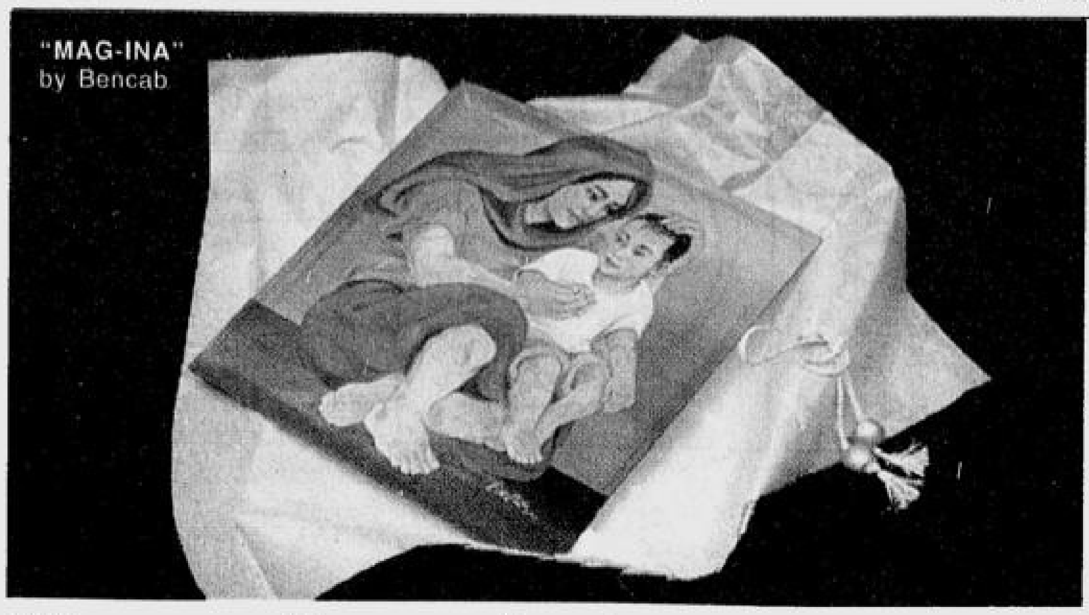
CAREGIVER PROGRAM. The Maple Leaf Training Center is offering six-month courses on the Live-in Caregiver Program at its head office located at Room 410, Verde Oro Building, 536 Commonwealth Ave., Diliman, QC. Call 951-9823 to -25.

PUBLIC HEARING. Ornamental plant growers will have an opportunity to share in the policy development of the ornamental plant industry as the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Products Standards hosts a series of public hearing on Standards for the Ornamentals Industry Nov. 27 in Davao City and Dec. 12 at the National Seed Quality Control Service, BPI Compound, QC. Call 920-6131 to -33.



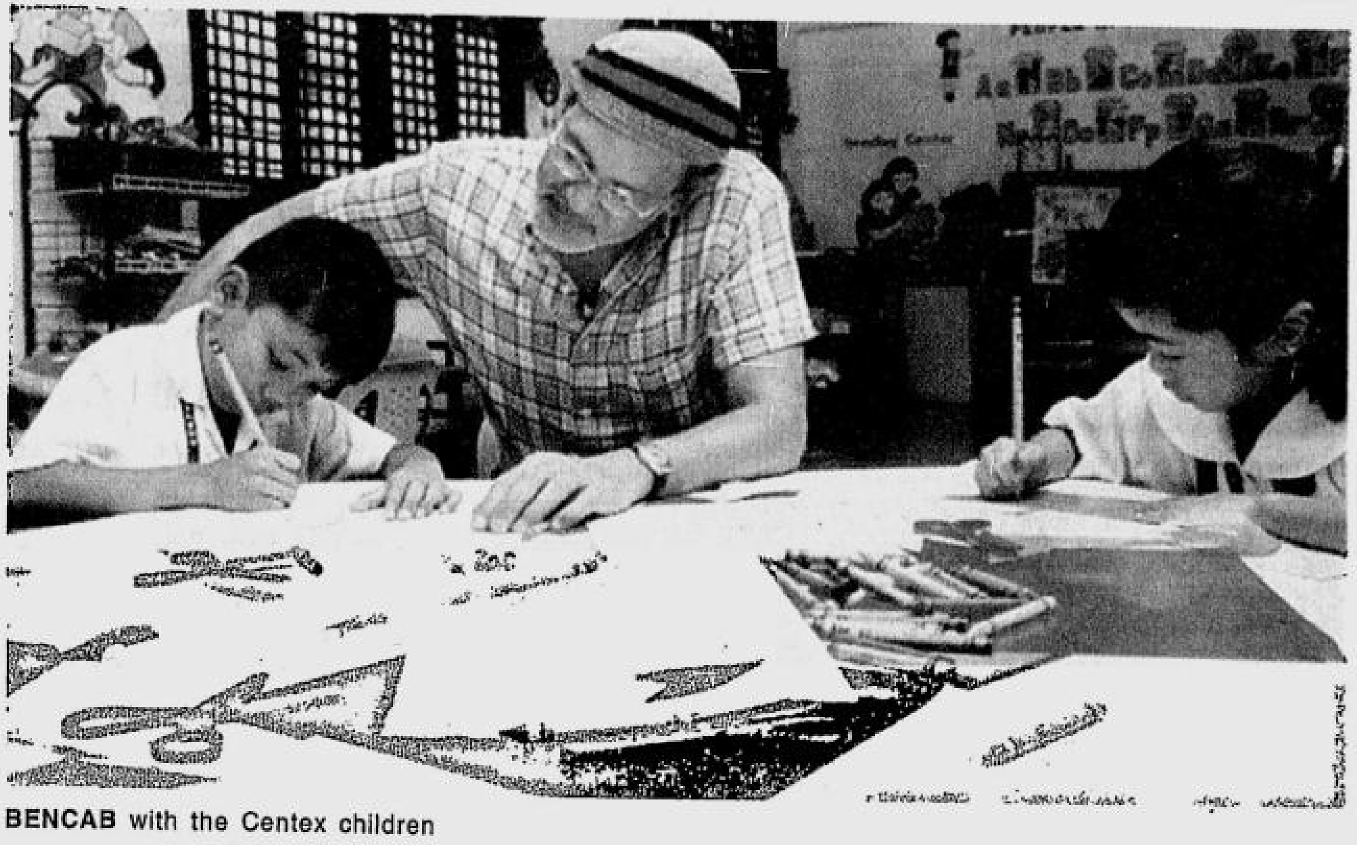
GIRL SCOUT AWARDEE

Divine Grace D. Evangelista was one of the 31 Girl Scouts to receive the Girl Scout Medal Award from GSP-Central Luzon president Cynthia P. Zalaga, GSP-Central Luzon regional chair Aurea C. Ferrer and GSP regional executive director Emelinda Q. Caparros on Sept. 28 at the GSP National Headquarters, Taft Avenue, Manila. She is shown with her father Marion del Castillo Evangelista and mother Faith Divinagracia Evangelista (inset). Divine is one of the two Girl Scout representatives sent by GSP to Vancouver, Canada in July to attend the SOAR 2001 Camp. She is chair of the Senior Planning Board-Rizal Council and secretary of the Senior Planning Board-Central Luzon.



“MAG-INA”
by Bencab

Bencab paints an uncommon ‘Mag-ina’



BENCAB with the Centex children

ONE look is all it takes to know that Bencab's “Mag-ina” is no ordinary mother-and-child painting. Her swarthy arms clutching close her child, there is no fragility in the mother's embrace. The child is no suckling infant but strong-limbed and nearly full-grown. Their bare feet and spare clothes speak only of a humble way of life.

This lack of delicacy makes this mother and child definitely more interesting and arresting. Says art critic Cid Reyes of Bencab's latest masterpiece: “It is a touching portrait of Filipino motherhood... It emits a quiet emotional radiance which the viewer will instantly feel.”

The artist himself explains the painting: “It shows *aruga*, the mother as nurturer, just as Centex nurtures children to grow up to be good individuals.” The painting, rendered in acrylic, has been captured in a limited run of high-grade porcelain plates and a line of notebooks developed for the benefit of the Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education or Centex. The school aims to raise future leaders from among the less privileged by providing them quality education.

Boy from Tondo

Bencab, who also grew up in the indigent neighborhoods of Tondo, created “Mag-ina” as an early Christmas gift for the Centex children. When he paid a visit to the Centex school in Tondo last month, he could not help but be surprised by the strides made by young public school students enroled at Centex.

The students had been topping most of the national tests conducted by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) in their respective levels. Moreover, the children were confident and self-assured. “You would never think these kids come from depressed areas,” observes the artist. “There's a big difference between where they come from and this environment. They have found dignity.”

Centex is Ayala Foundation's response to the need to provide quality education to bright children from needy families. Initially funded by Ayala Land Inc., Centex opened its first school in Tondo in 1998 with 75 of the brightest students in the City of Manila with the support of DECS. It was soon after followed by a second campus in Bauan, Batangas funded primarily by Globe Telecom and Purefoods.

Carol Atacador, Centex project director, who was also responsible at one time for conceptualizing the curriculum of the California school system, designed the school's curriculum. Its goal is not only to equip students with fundamental skills but also to encourage them to be critical thinkers, servant leaders and nurturers of the environment. According to her, Centex provides family support and counseling, educational assistance and supplemental feeding as part of a holistic approach in raising children.

A splash of hope

“We want to produce well-rounded students who are not only academically excellent but trained to be moral and ethical Filipino leaders,” explains Atacador.

The method seems to be working. Students at Centex Tondo have consistently performed well in inter-school examinations and competitions, proving that children from impoverished families can perform at par with their private school counterparts when given the proper education and motivation.

Atacador believes that Bencab's contribution to Centex will encourage more people to help raise children who have the potential to become leaders. The limited edition “Mag-ina” porcelain plate, which measures 31cm x 31cm, is being sold for P2,500. “Mag-ina” also appears on paper items such as notebooks, pocket notebooks, memopads, note cards and gift tags. Proceeds from the sale of the “Mag-ina” products will be used to help fund the construction of more Centex schools elsewhere in the country.

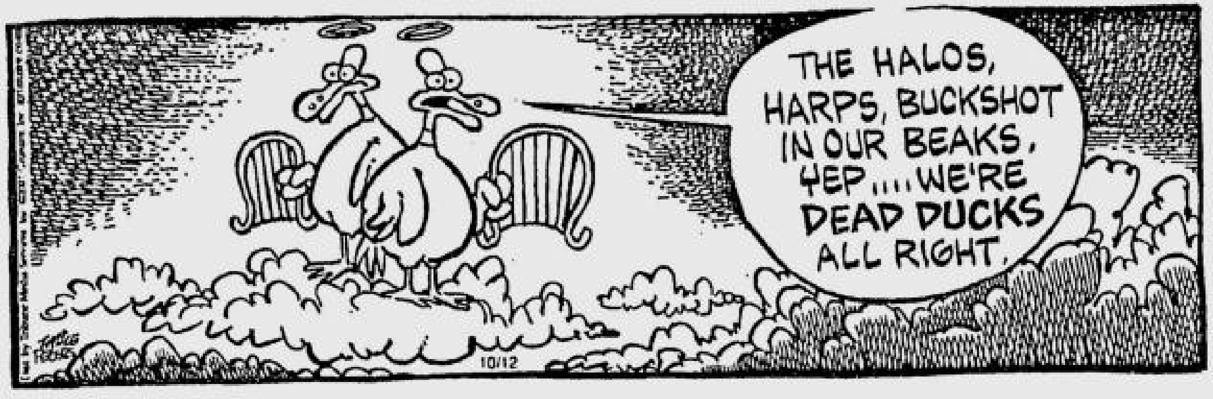
“Bencab brings us a splash of hope. If an important personality such as he can take time out to participate in the Centex program, then there's much hope for the children,” notes Atacador.

Call Sarah Sevilla at 810-1096 or visit the Ayala Foundation at 3/F Garden Square Building, Greenbelt Drive, Makati City.

Nakahanap kami ng Calcium sa orange!
Hi-Nutrition TANG
NOW CHARGED WITH CALCIUM
FORTIFIED
Hi-Nutrition TANG is now charged with calcium! It has the orange taste na love na love ng kids. So as kids grow taller, their bones get stronger.

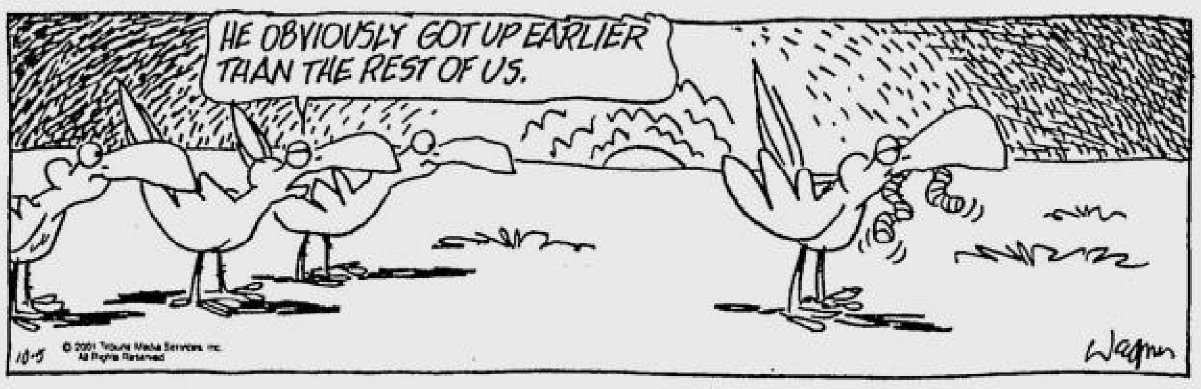
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


THE HALOS, HARPS, BUCKSHOT IN OUR BEAKS, YEP.....WE'RE DEAD DUCKS ALL RIGHT.
10/12

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


HE OBVIOUSLY GOT UP EARLIER THAN THE REST OF US.
10-5
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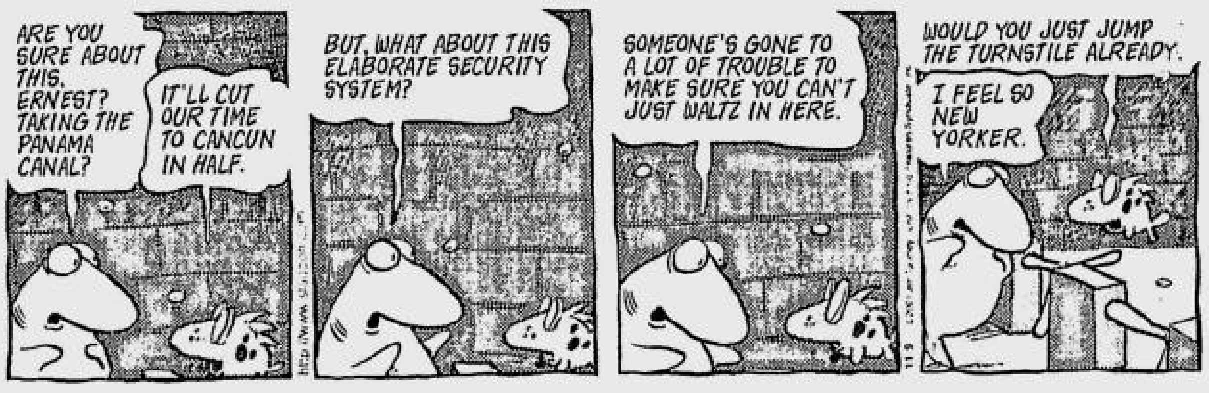
Wagner

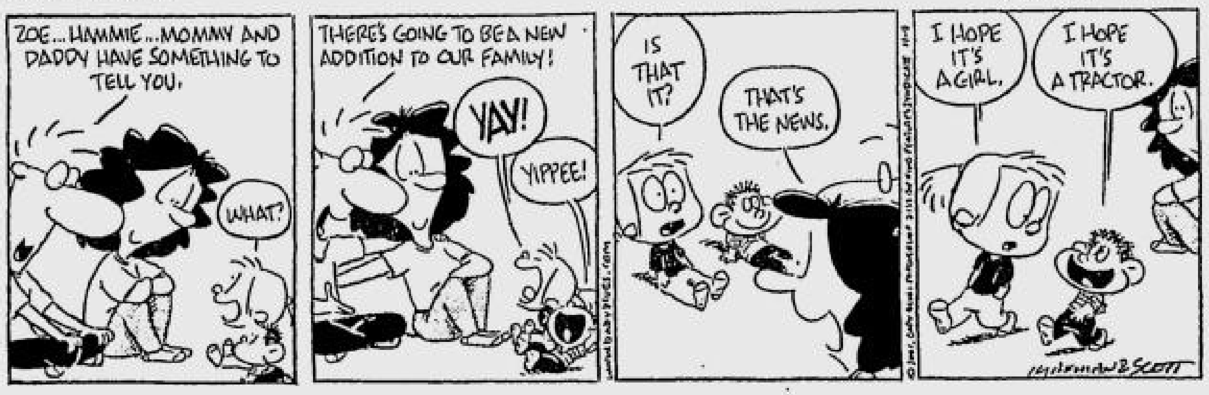
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, ERNEST? TAKING THE PANAMA CANAL?
IT'LL CUT OUR TIME TO CANCUN IN HALF.
BUT, WHAT ABOUT THIS ELABORATE SECURITY SYSTEM?
SOMEONE'S GONE TO A LOT OF TROUBLE TO MAKE SURE YOU CAN'T JUST WALTZ IN HERE.
WOULD YOU JUST JUMP THE TURNSTILE ALREADY.
I FEEL SO NEW YORKER.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ZOE...HAMMIE...MOMMY AND DADDY HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU.
WHAT?
THERE'S GOING TO BE A NEW ADDITION TO OUR FAMILY!
YAY!
YIPPEE!
IS THAT IT?
THAT'S THE NEWS.
I HOPE IT'S A GIRL.
I HOPE IT'S A TRACTOR.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Marcia Wallace, Fernando Valenzuela, Robert Foxworth, Jenny McCarthy

Happy Birthday: You have what it takes to be a leader, so take action. It's time to raise your self-confidence. This is not the year to make decisions based on emotion. Opportunities are present, so take advantage of your good fortune. Your numbers: 1, 16, 17, 24, 37, 39

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Things are heating up at work. New developments appear to be better than anticipated. Your energetic nature has inspired confidence and enthusiasm in others, and you are ready for the payoff.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Plan something nice for yourself and a special someone. This is a great day to be charming and atone for past mistakes. You will be forgiven. Clearing up misunderstandings will lead to peace of mind.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): This may be a frustrating day of red tape and opposition. Don't give up hope. Work quietly behind the scenes to accomplish your goals.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Participating in worthwhile groups will lead to interesting new friendships and partnerships. Don't be afraid to join in the fun.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Being too gregarious will cause some friction today. If you have been ignoring things that you should have taken care of, someone you care about may be more upset with you than you first thought.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's time to find out how everyone else views your abilities. Display some of your detailed artistic creations today. This could be the start of something new.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will be extremely lucky today. You can take a small risk or sell some belongings. Real estate deals look lucrative. Breathe easy and prepare to enjoy a little extra cash.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Try to be precise and to the point. You will anger someone if you promise to call and then don't. Your family will be in an uproar if they oppose your choices of entertainment and friends. This may be the right time to discuss your intentions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Do your job and stay out of trouble at work. Try not to get involved and rectify any problems that arise. Someone may try to blame you for his or her shortcomings.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Spend time enjoying children or friends. You should be able to accomplish things if you work as a team.

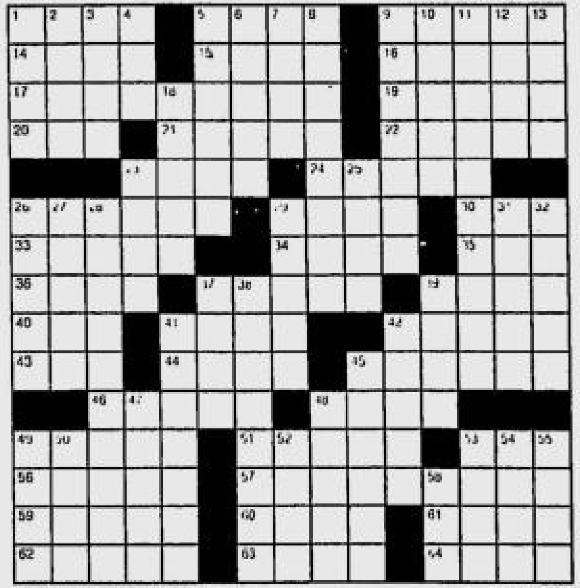
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It's time for an overhaul at home. Beautification of your property will pay big dividends later. This is a money-making period, so consider investments.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will have problems with a colleague if you're not understanding and sensitive to his or her complaints. Listen, but don't get involved for the time being.

Birthday Baby: You are giving, caring and willing to do what's right for friends and family. You have a heart of gold and a unique perspective. You are a doer, inventor and contributor.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Robert Zimmerman
San Diego, CA
9/25/01

ACROSS
1 Tie
5 Block up
9 Old hat
14 Paella ingredient
15 Body of a ship
16 Water-cooler tidbit
17 Aging bombshell?
19 Bakery lure
20 Apiary resident
21 Delete
22 Michigan and Ontario
23 Forbidding
24 Tex-Mex dish
26 Applies a lacquer
29 Kinship group
30 Essence
33 Give the slip to
34 Thomas Arne composition, "__ Britannia"
35 Coll. student's rating
36 Davenport
37 Distrust
39 Puts on years
40 Broadcast band
41 Gaudy
42 Moved furtively
43 Blackjack
44 Contribution to the pot
45 Tolerates
46 Ed of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"
48 Prejudice
49 Hoarse
51 Time-waster
53 Secondary road abbr.
56 Extreme
57 Hotrod show-off
59 More tender
60 Let up
61 Break bread
62 Attuned
63 Cereal grasses
64 Vegas posting

DOWN
1 Colorless
2 Ascend
3 Longing
4 Surfer's milieu?
5 Joseph Papp musical, "A __ Line"
6 Of the moon
7 Pioneer automobile maker
8 Campus choristers
9 Pecan treat
10 Of hearing
11 Conclusive evidence
12 A few
13 Periods
18 Sierra __
23 1916 art sensation
25 Stop!
26 Gospels' subject
27 Maui farewell
28 Flaky dessert
29 Unpolished
31 Turn over
32 Gets some rays
37 Completed
38 Mounted escort
39 How sad!
41 Cord for a whistle
42 A Beatle
45 Prolonged attacks
47 Shopping frenzy
48 World-weary
49 Dry, crisp bread
50 Lotion ingredient, often
52 Sturdy cart
53 Vitriol
54 Give temporarily
55 Very in Vichy
58 Fuss

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

P	E	A	S	■	S	T	R	O	M	■	U	S	E	S
L	E	F	T	■	A	R	E	N	A	■	N	A	S	H
E	R	L	E	■	R	E	F	I	X	■	C	O	P	E
A	I	A	R	T	I	F	I	C	I	A	L	■	■	■
D	E	T	E	R	■	■	T	E	M	P	E	S	T	S
■	■	■	S	A	F	E	■	■	■	A	S	C	A	P
C	S	A	■	C	U	T	T	E	R	■	A	R	I	A
H	A	L	E	Y	J	O	E	L	O	S	M	E	N	T
A	M	A	T	■	I	N	D	I	C	T	■	W	T	S
N	O	N	C	E	■	■	■	S	K	I	N	■	■	■
G	A	S	H	O	U	S	E	■	■	N	E	G	E	V
■	■	■	I	N	T	E	L	L	I	G	E	N	C	E
B	O	R	N	■	T	R	I	O	S	■	S	O	L	E
O	L	E	G	■	E	V	O	K	E	■	O	M	A	R
G	E	M	S	■	R	E	T	I	E	■	N	E	T	S

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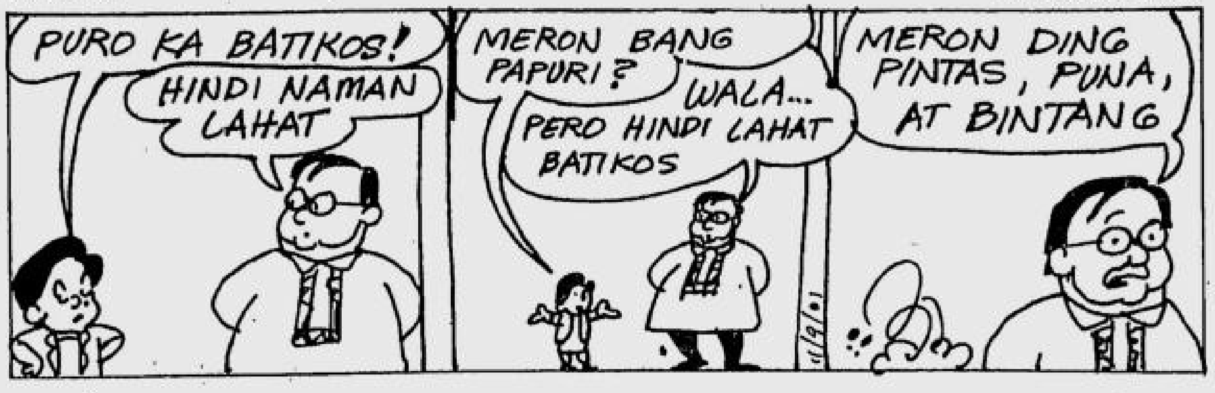
9/25/01

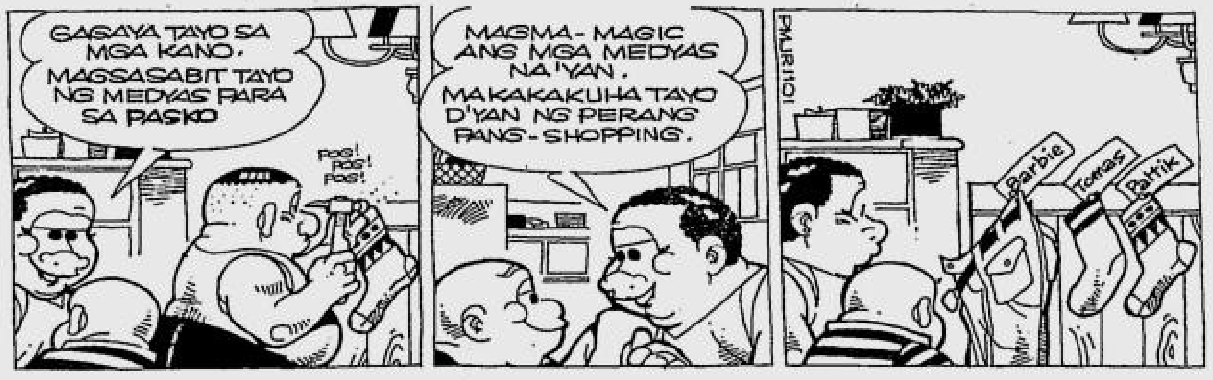
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PURO KA BATIKOS!
HINDI NAMAN LAHAT
MERON BANG PAPURI?
WALA...
PERO HINDI LAHAT BATIKOS
MERON DING PINTAS, PUNA, AT BINTANG
11/9/01

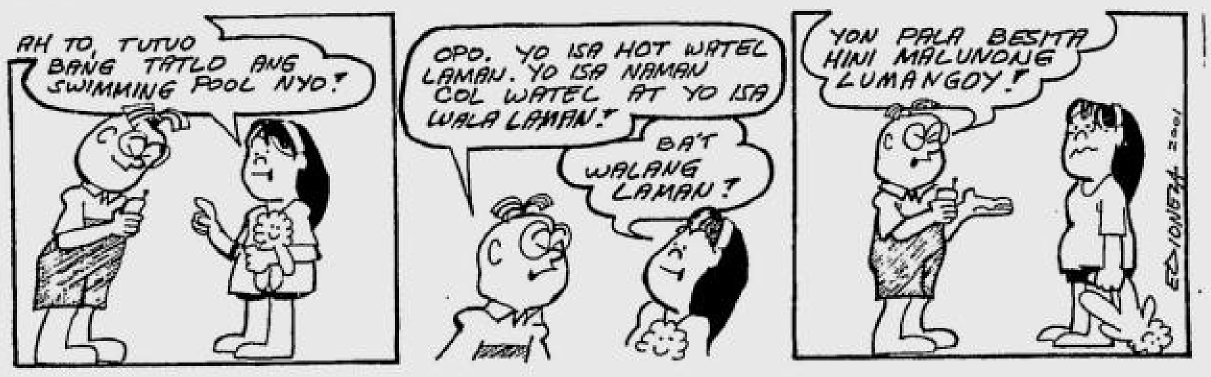
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


GAGAYA TAYO SA MGA KANO. MAGSASABIT TAYO NG MEDYAS PARA SA PASKO
POG! POG! POG!
MAGMA-MAGIC ANG MGA MEDYAS NA'YAN. MAKAKAKUHA TAYO D'YAN NG PERANG PANG-SHOPPING.
PMJR1101
Barbie
Tomas
Patrik

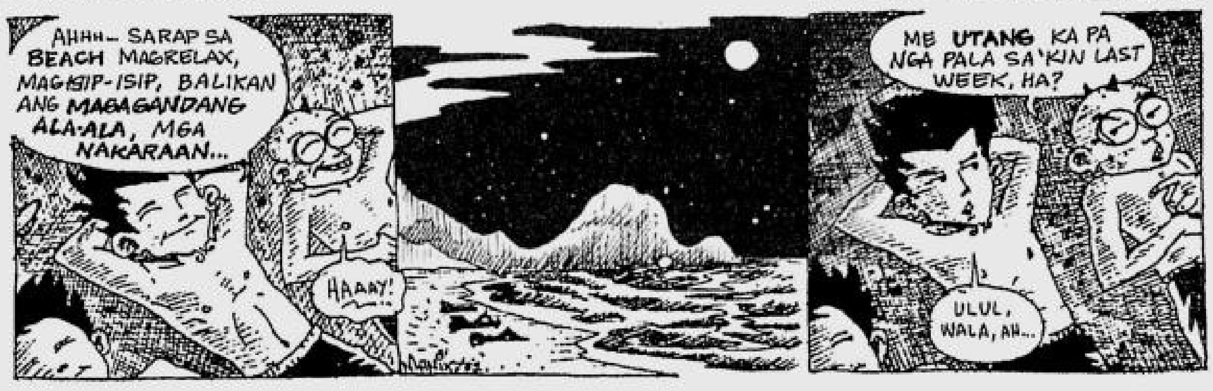
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


AH TO, TUTUO BANG TATLO ANG SWIMMING POOL NYO?
OPO. YO ISA HOT WATEL LAMAN. YO ISA NAMAN COL WATEL AT YO ISA WALA LAMAN.
BA'T WALANG LAMAN?
YON PALA BESITA HINI MALUNONG LUMANGOY!
EDIONELA 2001

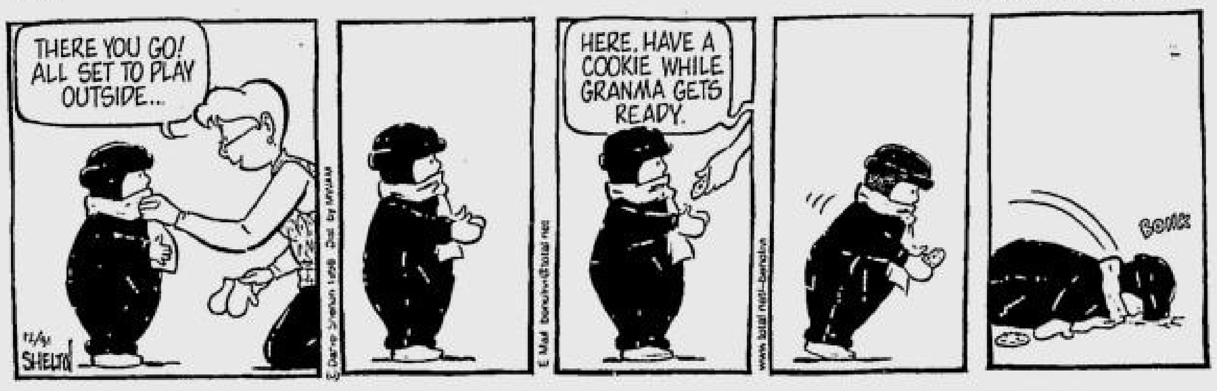
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


AHHH– SARAP SA BEACH MAGRELAX, MAGISIP-ISIP, BALIKAN ANG MAGAGANDANG ALA-ALA, MGA NAKARAAN...
HAAAY!
MB UTANG KA PA NGA PALA SA'KIN LAST WEEK, HA?
ULUL, WALA, AH...

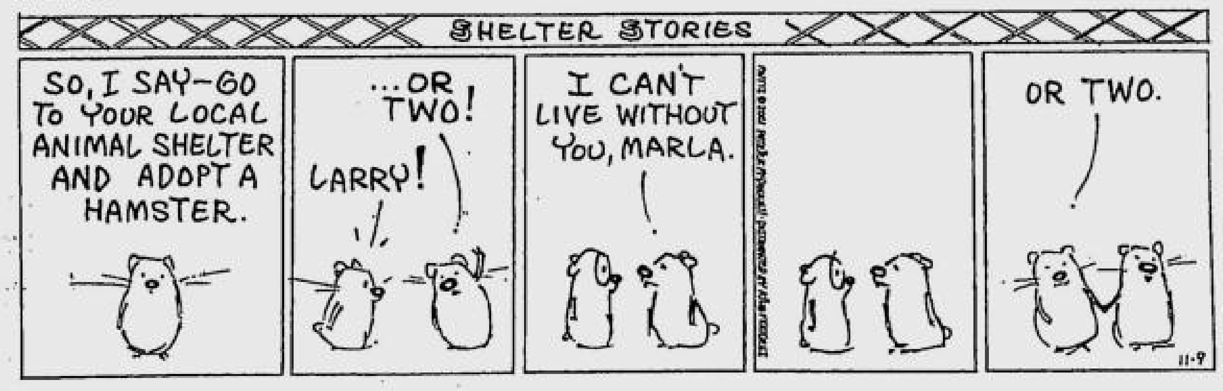
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


THERE YOU GO! ALL SET TO PLAY OUTSIDE...
HERE. HAVE A COOKIE WHILE GRANMA GETS READY.
BONK
SHELTON

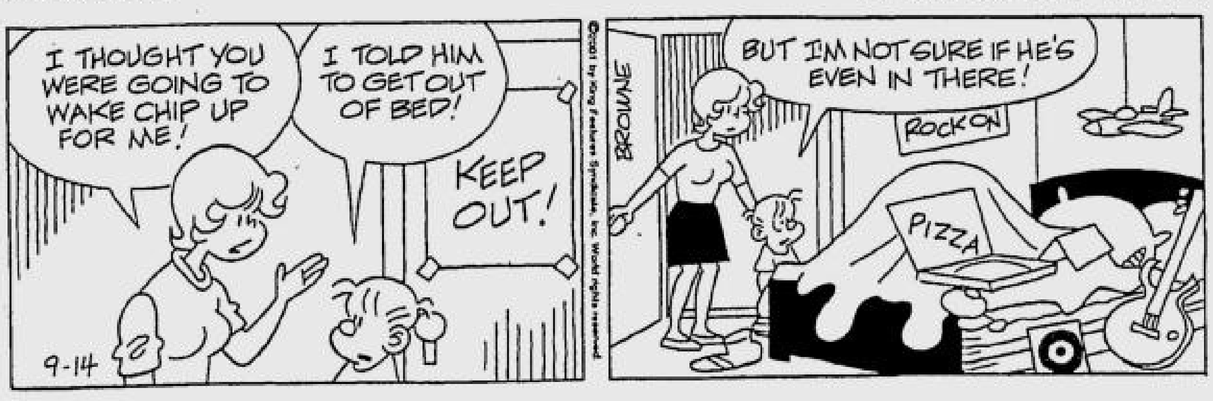
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHELTER STORIES
SO, I SAY–GO TO YOUR LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTER AND ADOPT A HAMSTER.
...OR TWO!
LARRY!
I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU, MARLA.
OR TWO.
11-9

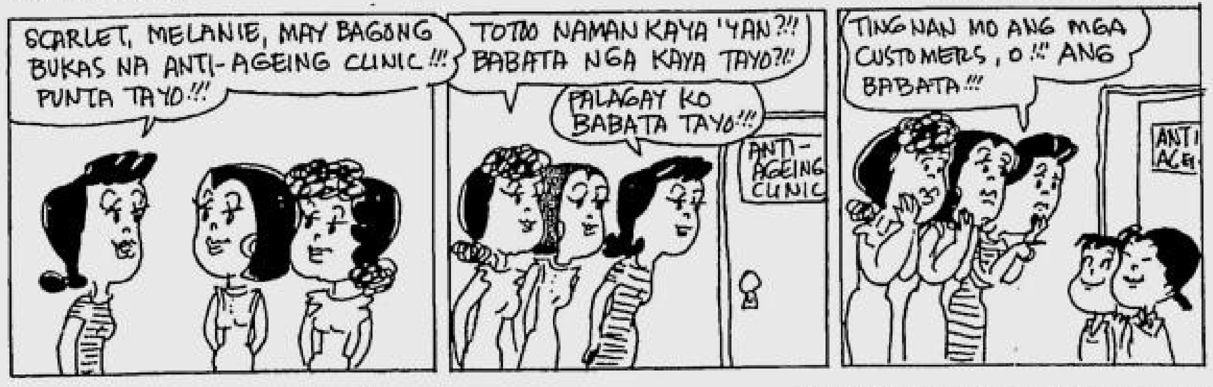
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO WAKE CHIP UP FOR ME!
I TOLD HIM TO GET OUT OF BED!
KEEP OUT!
9-14
BUT I'M NOT SURE IF HE'S EVEN IN THERE!
ROCK ON
PIZZA
BROWNE

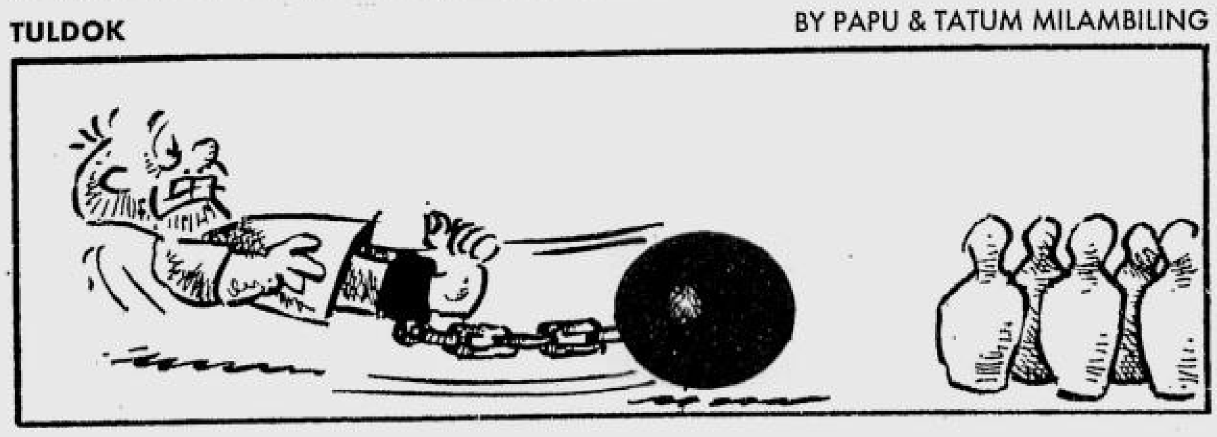
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

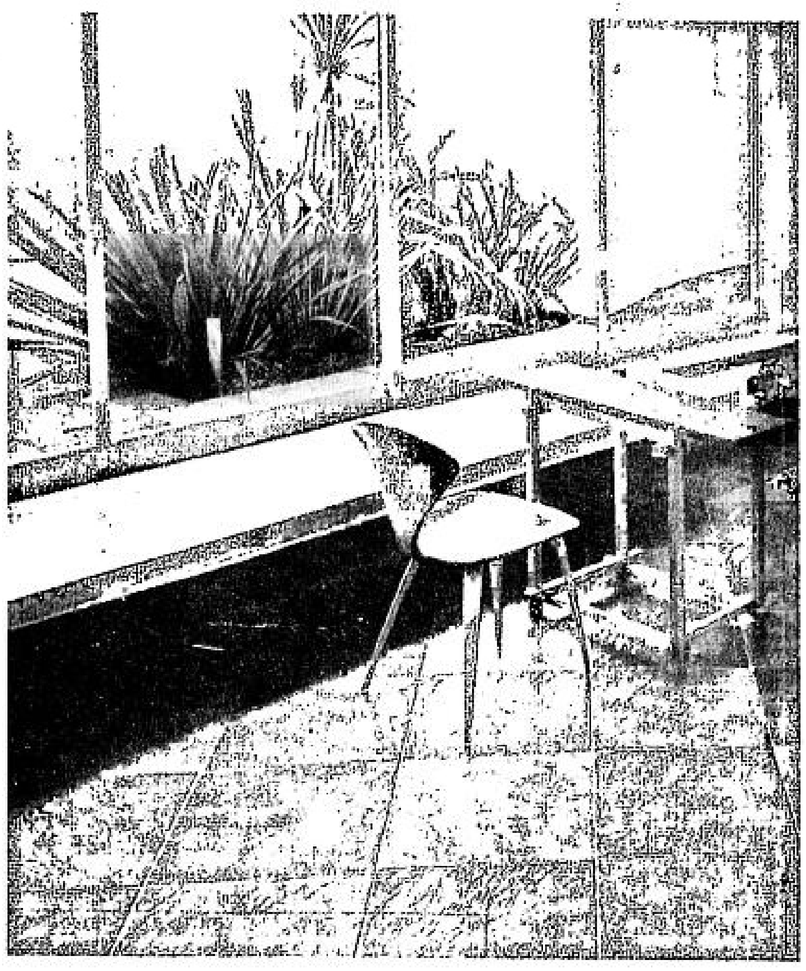

SCARLET, MELANIE, MAY BAGONG BUKAS NA ANTI-AGEING CLINIC!!! PUNTA TAYO!!!
TOTOO NAMAN KAYA 'YAN?!! BABATA NGA KAYA TAYO?!!
PALAGAY KO BABATA TAYO!!!
ANTI-AGEING CLINIC
TINGNAN MO ANG MGA CUSTOMERS, O!!! ANG BABATA!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



MOSAIC tiles, reinterpreted new forms and combinations are the current favorites of trendy designers. They make fine accent walls, form intricate borders and delicate patterns.



MODULAR layout works wonders on fired earth tiles, terracotta and cement tiles. Possibilities are endless with the variations in layout and grouting spaces between the tiles.

Homes are a statement of aspiration and stability. Tiles mirror those

Tiles make the design grade

(From page F1)

is a statement due to its cost, but marble, when properly cut and in the right selection, can still showcase patterns and ideas steeped in elegance.

Stretching the bounds of material technology is a challenge to a designer. Researching on the available resources, such as adobe dug on-site or boulders unearthed from a swimming pool excavation, opens up options. Creativity is still the key. Knowledge of material combinations is also essential as in most situations, waterproofing, compound treatments and termination barriers have to be applied on borders. Where wood and stone meet, where fabric and granite join together, certain applications must be made.

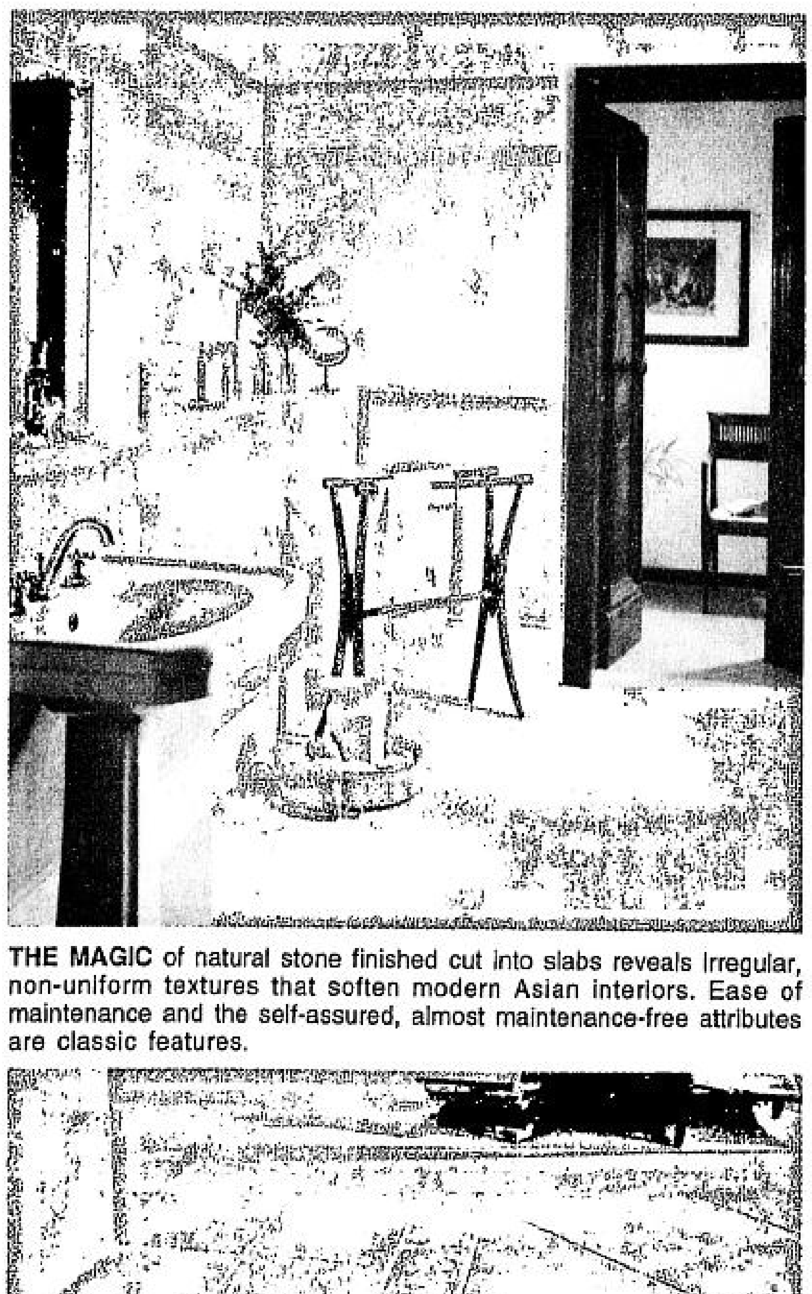
A trend that is now clearly reemerging among the wave of upscale designers is the use of mosaic tiles, whether they be in ceramic, stone or other natural material. Commissioned mosaic work has now stepped out of retail and religious patterns and has reentered the home front. Distinct and easily a design statement, these finely detailed executions are now beautiful wall murals on the kitchen or on the swimming pool floor.

The possibilities and patterns are endless. Resources will indicate how far designs will go, how richly detailed the combinations can be. It is thus fitting that the materials we use have that timeless character that should add value to the home as it nurtures a family through the years and as it is passed on to the next generation.

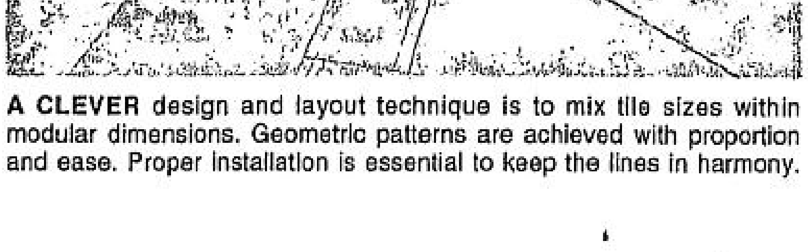
Centro Ceramica is located at 225 Edsa, East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. Call 744-6786 and 744-6781.

Next in the series: Patterns, styles and trends for flooring and wall surfaces.

E-mail the author at cnolido-@aimonline.org



THE MAGIC of natural stone finished cut into slabs reveals irregular, non-uniform textures that soften modern Asian interiors. Ease of maintenance and the self-assured, almost maintenance-free attributes are classic features.



A CLEVER design and layout technique is to mix tile sizes within modular dimensions. Geometric patterns are achieved with proportion and ease. Proper installation is essential to keep the lines in harmony.

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Herbarium in the city

A garden right on the rooftop of Cravings on Katipunan serves as herbal ingredients repository for the restaurant

BY TITA V. GIRON
PHOTOS BY ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

ARUGULA, the secret herb that makes the big difference in certain European dishes, is no longer a secret. Some herb gardeners in cooler regions around Metro Manila are now growing this European vegetable that has a memorable pungent aroma and nutty taste.

Surprisingly, the imported arugula is also thriving very well in a local garden somewhere in Diliman, Quezon City. We recently discovered this European herb, and other cool-loving herbs, growing in the organic vegetable garden of Annie Pascual Guerrero of Cravings and the Center for Culinary Arts in Manila.

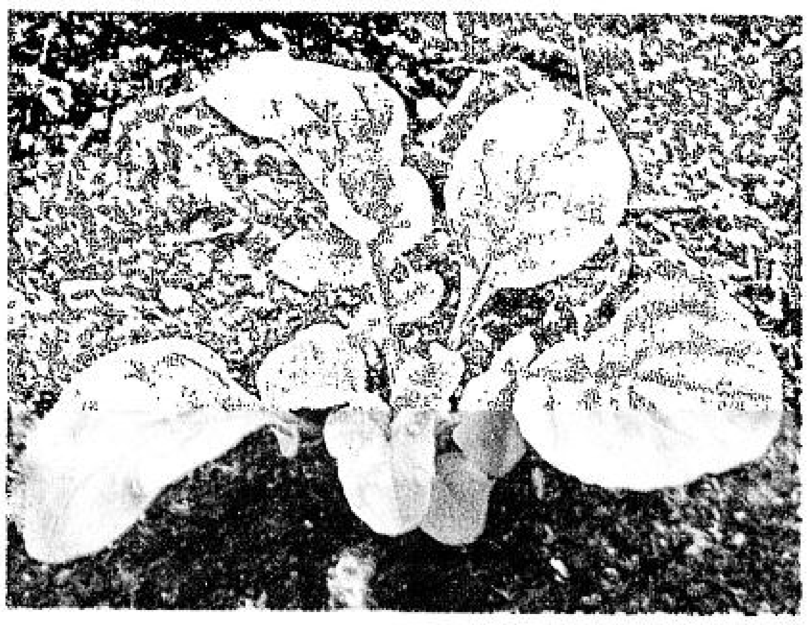
What makes it interesting is that kitchen waste from the restaurant is recycled and used to fertilize the herbs. Guerrero is a staunch organic vegetable grower. She is also into a neighborhood project that will start converting vacant lots into vegetable and tree gardens.

Curly endives, tarragon, savory, basil, rosemary, Italian parsley, oregano and thyme are some of the familiar herbs we identified in the raised vegetable plots that Guerrero and her garden help cultivate in a 1,200-sq-m lot in Loyola Grand Villas.

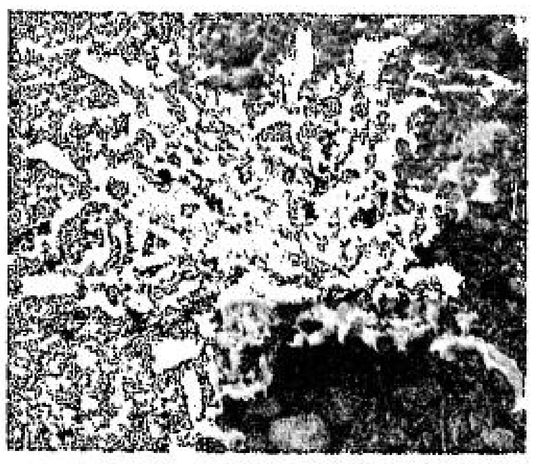
The garden also produces different kinds of lettuce, Chinese *kangkong*, red cabbage, eggplant, tomatoes, bell pepper, beans and okra.

"We have one advantage over other restaurants because a big bulk of the vegetables and spices we serve at the restaurant are harvested from our gardens," Guerrero said.

There is something in freshly harvested greens that adds a special flavor to dishes, she added. She tried to prove it by serving us a dish of tossed salad made up of romaine lettuce, red cabbage, basil, arugula and other homegrown greens sprinkled with vinaigrette. The vegetables were crisp and tasty and the taste of herbs was prominent.



ARUGULA



CURLY endive

Arugula, she explained, was recently introduced by seed importers into the local gardens. Europeans like it in their dishes. It adds a special zest to Italian dishes, in particular, and gives a particular flavor to soup and salad.

According to the culinary expert, the herb is actually a health food item because of its high calcium content. It is also rich in iron, Vitamins A and C, calcium, potassium, magnesium and iron.

Gardener at heart

Guerrero inherited her passion for gardening and cooking from her mother, Susanna Pascual. "I grew up among the trees and the aroma of dishes." She reminisced about trees and plants that her mother cultivated at the ancestral home in Hulo, Malabon.

"Cuisine and gardening" is how she calls her consuming hobby. She starts the day by puttering around the plants in her residential garden. After a busy day at the restaurant and at the culinary school where she also teaches, she drives to her herb garden in the neighboring subdivision and calls it a day after tending to her green wards.

On Sundays, she goes to the Sidcor weekend market to see the garden varieties and the fresh harvest from the farms. She also unwinds from the pressure of work by visiting vegetable gardens in Silang, Cavite. "I am always inspired when I go to Silang where there are also Japanese, Chinese, Israelites and Greeks growing herbs," she disclosed.

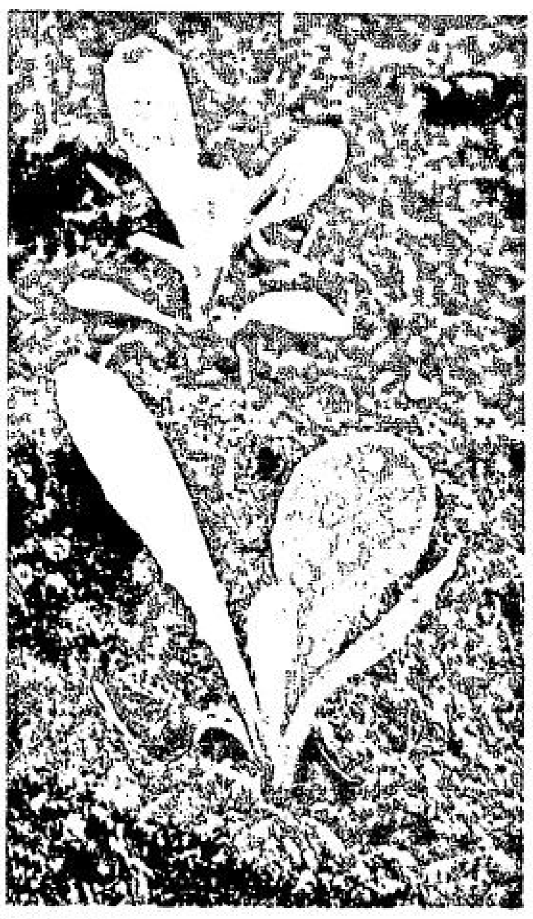
Guerrero's playtime at the garden includes experimenting with waste recycling methods, mixing garden soil, and using equipment like the secondhand grinder she bought. She and her gardeners were proud to show us their organic soil-less planting mix, which contains rice hull, compost and coconut coir.

She visits recycling projects, too. "I have been to the Blue Ridge project, and to the earth haven in San Mateo. It's interesting to learn how to use cultured bacteria for composting kitchen waste," she said.

What most customers of Cravings-Katipunan don't know is that some of the herbs, vegetables, as well as sprouts, served by the kitchen are harvested from the rooftop garden of the restaurant. It is, unfortunately, off-limits to customers and students of the culinary school located in the same building.

ANNIE Pascual Guerrero of Cravings tends to her Chinese *kangkong*.

PEPPER



ROMAINE lettuce

The rooftop garden used to be an experiment into hydroponics roof gardening by the late chef of the restaurant. "I miss my gardener, Tito Valdez, who made this roof project very successful." She told us about the experiments in soil-less gardening, which was later replaced by organic growing.

The experiment proved that vegetables, sprouts and herbs could be grown successfully on roof decks in the city. At the Cravings roof garden are lettuce, *pechay*, *kangkong* and other vegetables, as well as herbs like dill, tarragon and Italian parsley. To make things convenient for recycling up there, a mechanical pulley brings up organic waste from the kitchen to the roof deck.

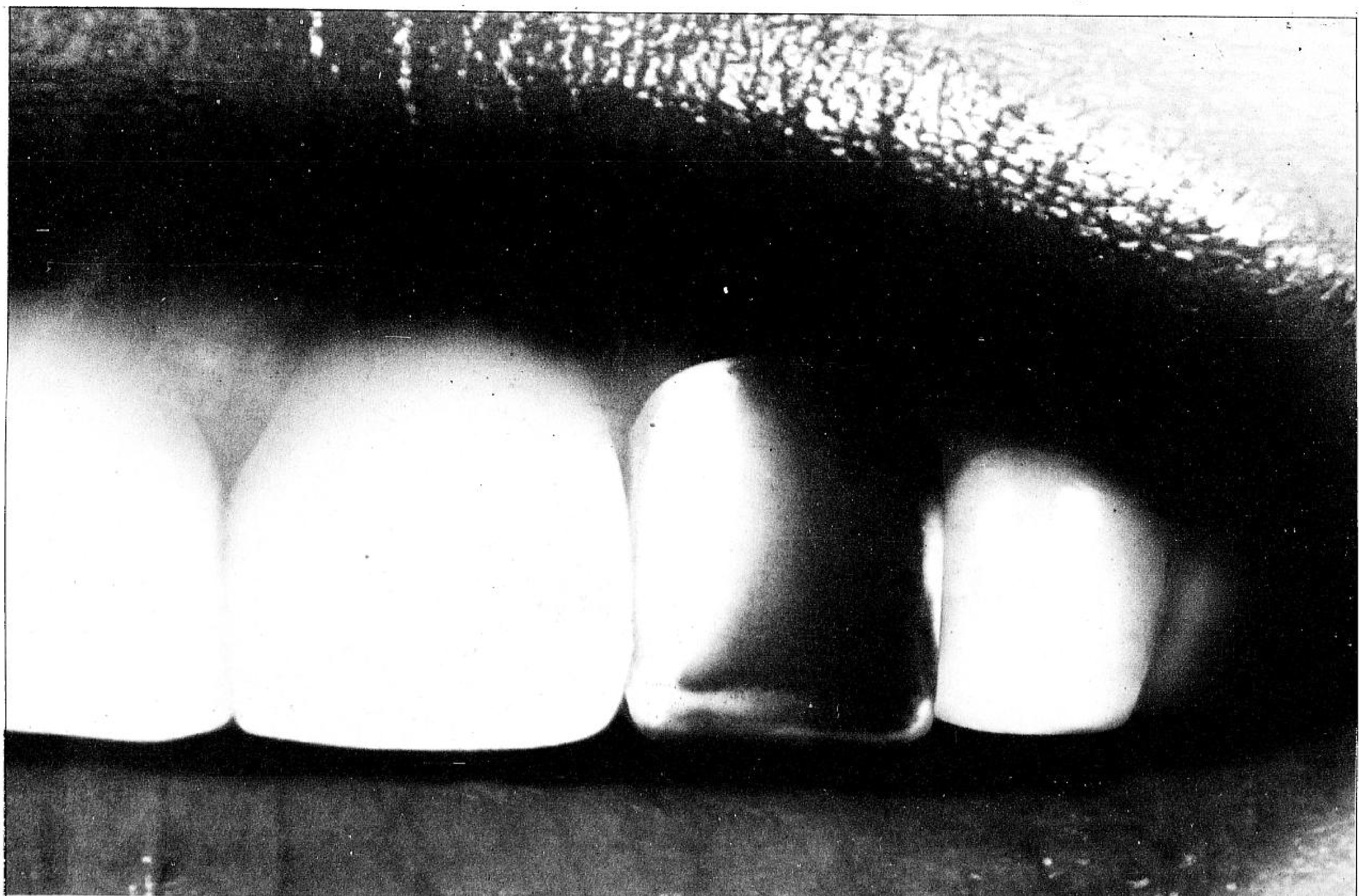
Sources of planting materials

"Herb gardeners can now buy in the local plant market foreign herbs that used to be very rare here. I prefer to start growing herbs from seeds," Guerrero pointed out.

Her sources of seeds are local suppliers like Ramgo (tel. 372-8726 and 412-3526) and Allied Botanical Corp. (tel. 437-6607/6608).

"I recommend Allied Botanical in Cubao where, aside from seeds, there are technical support experts who teach vegetable planting methods to farmers and gardeners, at no cost."

Guerrero added that seeds of herbs, including unfamiliar varieties, are available at both seed suppliers. That includes seeds of the exciting arugula herb that gives the tangy, spicy zip to Craving's tossed salad.



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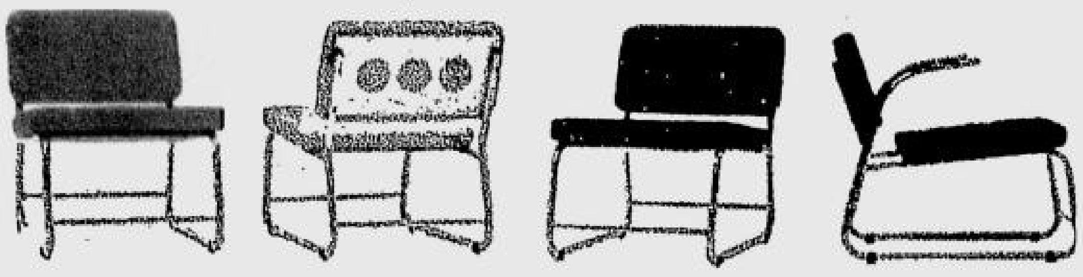
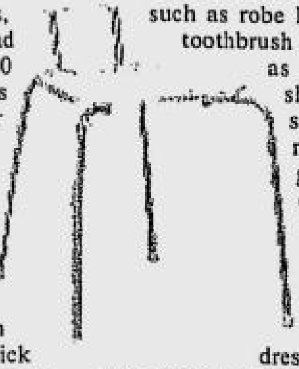
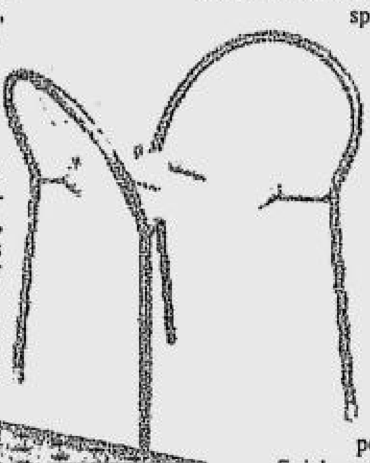


Sourcing European furniture

FINITURE Collezione has brought together an array of modern European designs under one roof. The brother-sister tandem of Verushkha and Giovanni Go is the exclusive distributor of Fiam Italia (www.fiamitalia.it), a high-end manufacturer of exceptional glass furniture. It produces coffee and dining tables, vitrine cabinets, console tables, side tables and even a glass chair that can support up to 350 pounds. Fiam commissions designers such as Philippe Starck and Ron Arad to design their products. Glass is bent, shaped and sculpted in a way you never thought possible. Items like these transcend their utilitarian elections. A Fiam piece is never just a coffee or dining table or display cabinet. It is a dear reflection of the owner's exceptional taste.



Italian chairs and tables from manufacturers Midj and Efezetta are also featured in Finiture's 600-sq m showroom. Take your pick from simple and elegant designs and shapes to the hip and daring; colors range from earth tones to pastel shades to bright eye-catching hues. Whether you prefer chairs that feature a combination of plastic or leather with chrome or aluminum, or fabric with wood and steel, you are sure to find something here. Aside from chairs and tables, Finiture also carries a complete line of Italian display cabinets, coffee tables and display shelves from Aaton and Sambo Metal. Specialty interesting are the side tables, magazine holder, umbrella stands from Anton that remind you of little green men from Mars.

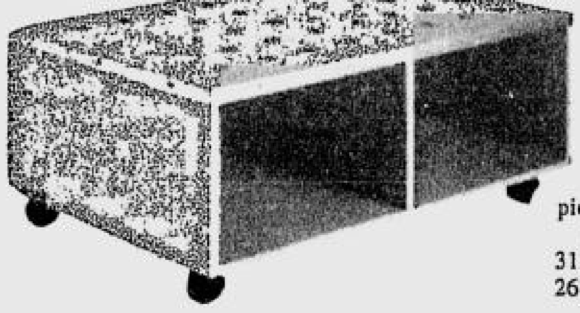


There are sofa sets and beds from Maintal, and the motorized reclining sofa from Dandyline of ItalyFiniture has added three new lines to its collection of furniture. First is Solmet (www.solmet. com), a manufacturer quality bathroom accessories such as the Aphrodite, the Grifo and the Vague. It is a one-of-a-kind set of accessories ranging from small items such as robe hooks, towel racks, soap and toothbrush holders, to bigger items such as vanity mirrors, toiletry shelves, display shelves and storage cabinets. Materials range from clear or frosted glass, colorful textured polycarbonate to cherry wood, beech wood and steel.

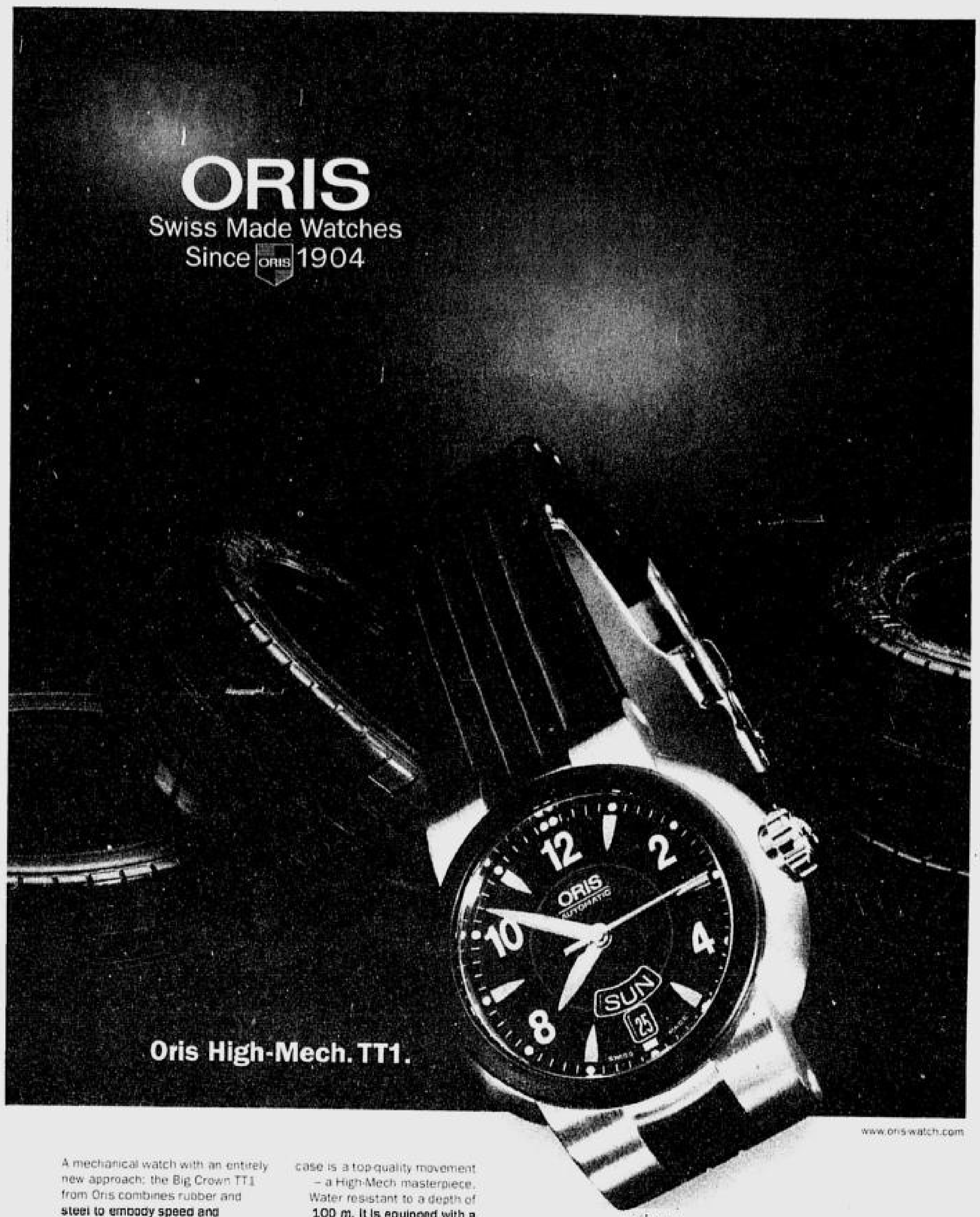
The second new addition to the Finiture family is the Wenge Collection, an affordable line of beds, side tables, dressers, A/V cabinets and display cabinets finished in the wenge color that is so much in vogue today. All the items in the Wenge Collection (wenge is an exotic South African hardwood) feature wood veneer. It gives the furniture a natural look and texture when compared to ordinary laminate. Despite the higher cost of veneer, the items in this collection are paced equal to or even less than comparable laminated items.

Aside from home furniture, Finiture Collezione also carries Della Valentine executive office furniture from Italy. Finiture also supplies custom-made modular kitchen and cabinet systems made of imported, high-tech scratch- and heat-resistant Melamine laminated shipboard in a variety of finishes and colors.

All hardware such as hinges, handles and screws are also imported to assure the highest quality finish and longevity. The modular system, which has long been the standard in the US and Europe, does away with the headache and poor finish associated with traditional carpentry work. The Finiture Collezione team that produces modular kitchen and cabinet systems is the same group as that of Daniele Interiors, one of the pioneers of modular systems here in the country.



Finiture Collezione is located at Sunshine Square, 312 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City, or call 718-2675 to 77.



www.oriswatch.com

A mechanical watch with an entirely new approach: the Big Crown TT1 from Oris combines rubber and steel to embody speed and elegance. The strap, with tyre-tread pattern, and the top ring are made of vulcanised black rubber. Embedded into the massive stainless-steel case is a top-quality movement – a High-Mech masterpiece. Water resistant to a depth of 100 m, it is equipped with a screw-down crown and day/date displays. When every second counts, the Oris Big Crown TT1 keeps time on your side.

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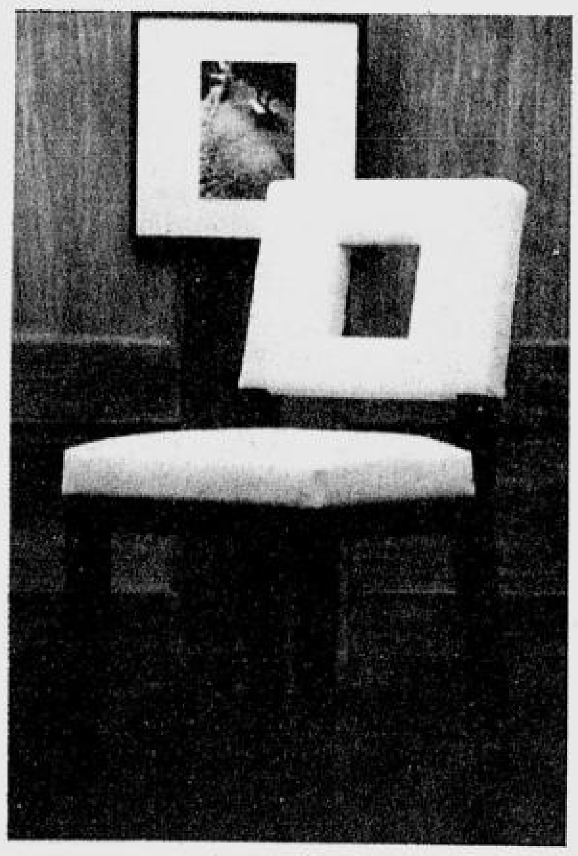
Gift suggestions



SOHO CHAIR. Ito Kish's interpretation of Christian Liagre's accent chair is made of pure cotton.

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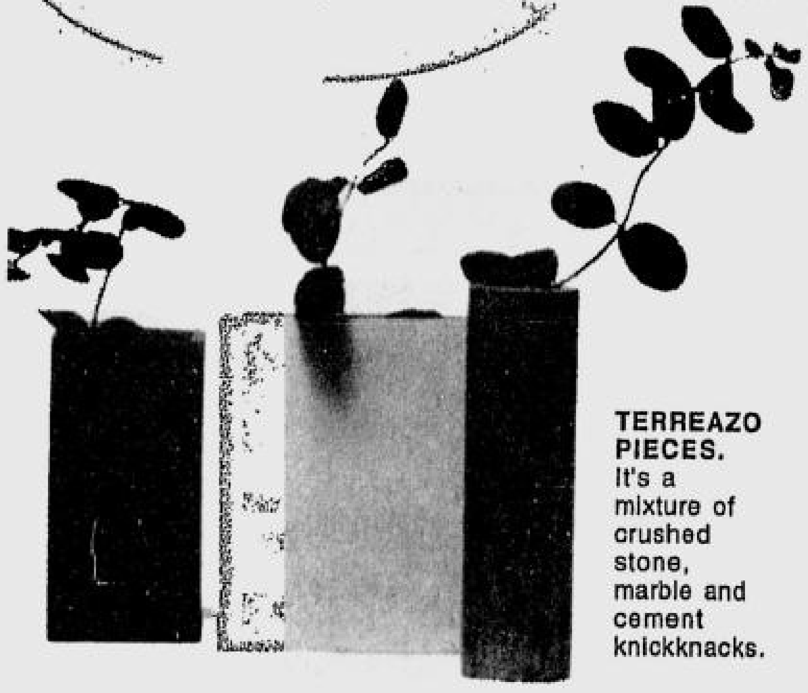
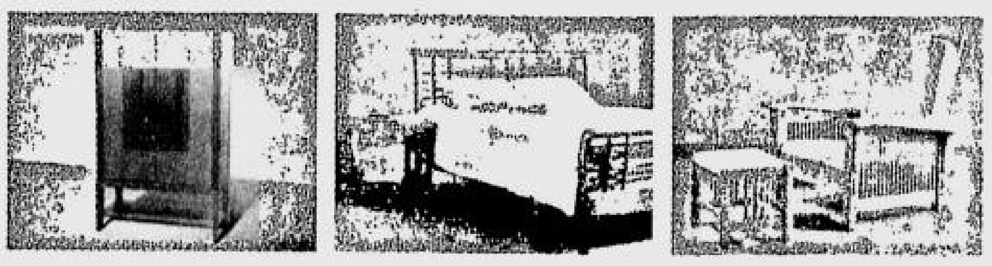
COFFEE Cup Cupple has a saucer that has a rubber center to keep the cup from moving when placed on the top. The Bud-shaped handle fits and locks in a saucer middle when not in use.



TERREAZO PIECES. It's a mixture of crushed stone, marble and cement knickknacks.



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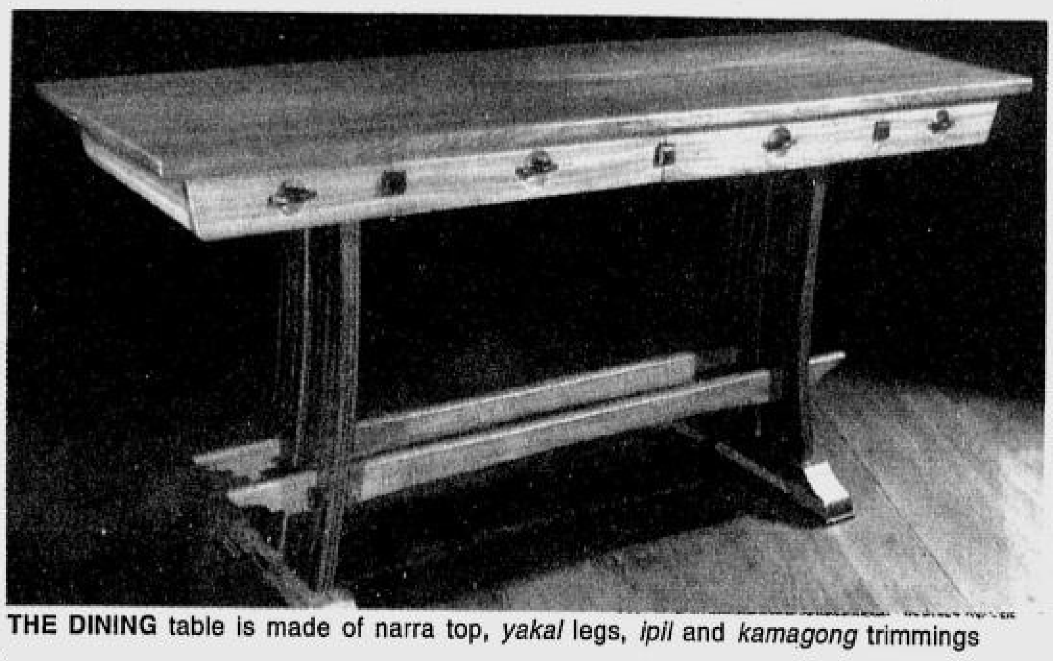
Benji Reyes to show new furniture

WOOD sculptor and furniture designer Benji Reyes will show his new works on Nov. 15 at Firma, the venue of fine art and design in Malate. Firma has been host to his select pieces since it opened over a year ago. Reyes' creation is timeless.

He favors old wood such as *ipil*, *yakal*, *kamagong*, *molave*, *saplungan*, *narra*, *dao* and *tindalo*. All the wood used is sourced from demolished houses, never from freshly felled timber which would be unheard of for this nature lover who lives and works in the hills of Antipolo. The only Filipino member of the British Woodturner's Association, Reyes is not a furniture-maker in the conventional sense. His works are faithful to the tradition of early crafts with no nails or putty used; only dowels, wood screws and metal joints to support wide and heavy surfaces like those on long dining tables. Neither does he use wax or varnish. The wood is sealed against natural aging and given a sleek finish by hand-rubbing with a secret oil mixture.


THE DINING table is made of narra top, *yakal* legs, *ipil* and *kamagong* trimmings

"My ultimate goal with every piece I make is to ensure it is functional to the end-user and stable enough to withstand time and become an heirloom," says Reyes. "Sometimes people see a chair and forget how this chair came to be. I want my pieces to evoke the artistry in furniture." This passion for functional pieces has done him well in the last 18 years. Collectors of his furniture pieces cannot seem to get enough—perhaps because Benji's works are not only aesthetically beautiful but also very functional. And he has been tremendously successful in marrying the two.

Firma is at 616 J. Nakpil St., Malate, tel. 525-5001.

PENSIVE Albor

Gus Albor can't forget Paris

The Filipino artist's show in Paris drew the cognoscenti and lots of camaraderie

ASKED how he felt showing his art formally in Paris for the first time, Filipino artist Gus Albor had only two words to say: "Absolutely ecstatic!"

Together with Paris-based artist Joon Claudio, Albor held a show at the Galerie Mirelle Batut d'Haussy located in the Latin Quarter last September. Welcoming the preautumn breeze after a very hot summer, technician stylist Francis Manalo, dressed in London-ish Paul & Joe, arrived with performing artist Sandra Palomar in total Christian Dior by John Galliano. Dressed-down artist Ofelia Gelvezon-Tequi, escorted by husband Marc, debated with Consul General Ditas Mueller whether to relish her Daurade Royale with rosemary or thyme.

Philippine representative to Unesco Diana Ongpin argued about one thing: olive oil had to be in it but preheated, of course. Bebeloy Araneta-Huni came with her lovely daughters, with Christina Huni catching everyone's eye. A very harassed Popo San Pascual arrived after a delayed 17-hour flight. France-based sculptor Gaston Damag didn't stop on the wine.

Philippine Ambassador to France Hector Villaruel was proud and happy—even if he admitted not knowing much about modern art. Philippine Consul Lisa Estrada came and left after a glass of rosé. Ramon Bilbao, dressed in Olivier Strelli Homme, got in from the south of France that afternoon and was leaving for Florence the next morning.

The event ended with a dinner at Lezard, that chic young people's restaurant at the Hotel de Ville, and dancing at VIP right after.

OFELIA Tequi and Ramon Bilbao

FRANCIS Manalo, Sandra Palomar

CURATOR-GALLERY owner Mireille Batut d'Haussy with a French painter

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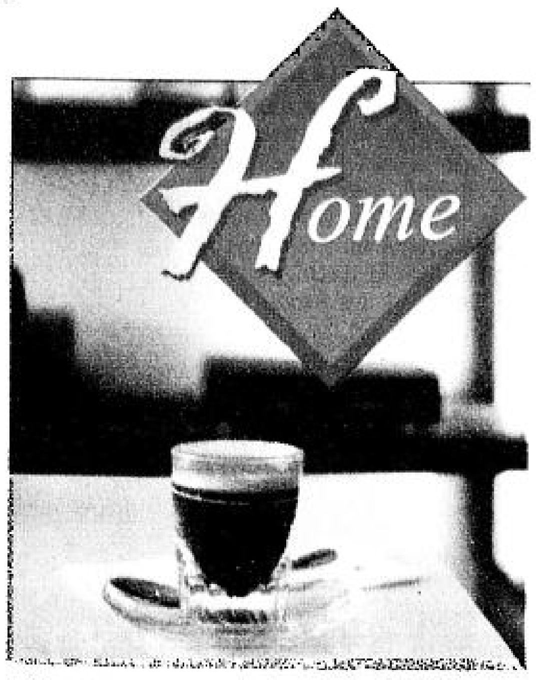

THE OWNER of Focal Café shows excellent choice in silverware and crockery.

Shakespeare in love–with caffeine

By Avie Gochoco-Perez
Photos by Chito Vecina
VISUAL CONCEPT: ALBERT AVELLANA

WHEN coffee became a thing of the twentysomething age group, the look of the coffee shop, much like the coffee served in it, changed radically. Although the older generation knew coffee shops in Manila to be part of those hotels where you could have a full meal quickly, today's coffee shops are called cafés and are stand-alone affairs.

Think Starbucks. Seattle's Best. Figaro. They spell c-o-f-f-e-e to Metro Manila's coffee drinkers today but let not Macbeth Dy of Focal Café hear those names. He with the Shakespearean name dismisses the beverages these outlets serve as commercial, "fast-food" stuff, with not a drop of his passion for good coffee mixed into brew.

Yes, Macbeth can be passionate about his self-inflicted task: to educate the Filipino palate on what a good espresso is or how one should ideally drink it (standing up and all done in two to three sips) or the best part of a cappuccino (the froth at the top). One no-no when you walk into Focal Café is to ask for decaf.

"I'll show them out the door," Mac swears. Partner Mickey Tang who looks after the audio shop part of the business likes to put it this way: having decaffeinated coffee is "like going to church without praying."

Acid jazz

Focal Café is a 3-month-old tenant on 59 Connecticut St. in Greenhills although it still has to be "grand-opened," Mac volunteers, without saying why. It is a glass, cement and steel transparent box. A bit of brown wood for warmth is thrown in as in the audio shop's tongue-and-groove wood floor which "goes craaack, craaaack when the aircon is turned off at night." The walls are white and nothing's on them except for a solitary "plasma TV" which shows documentaries sans the sound. Why? There is music—"acid jazz" is Mac and Mickey's cup of cappuccino—for Focal.

Nothing but an expanse of glass delineates Focal from Connecticut up front. Its neon sign is almost identical in style and color to neighboring UCC Café Vienna's, but it is totally unrelated to Focal Café. The signs are misleading, Mac concedes, but the passion in him again dominates: "I believe in karma. (Business) is not just about making money. It is also about ethics, respect for your neighbors." UCCs owner is older than he, so let it be, he says. Just like he let two ladies be, who accidentally sauntered into Focal, thinking it was UCC Café Vienna.

Two interior designers were hired to do Focal's interiors. Still, Mac, with three years of architecture at the University of Sto. Tomas to his name and a similar period spent in running his self-designed café in Taiwan, changed "80 percent" of the designers' work.

"There was too much design. It was too colorful. I didn't want Focal to look like another Friday's or Starbucks or Chili's. Me, I like a very streamlined look, modern, simple, very simple, monochromatic. With this kind of design, after work, you can come here and relax."

He would like to see couples come in and savor Focal's offerings, he says. He would like people to come in with a book, read away and think, enjoying Focal's espresso. Manila needs a place for people to sit down and relax. Come in shorts, T-shirts, slippers. Come in pajamas if you will, he says. Be yourself. Just don't stand on top of the tables to do your thing.

Clean lines

Seating capacity at Focal is 40 max, with two tables reserved for non-smokers. Macbeth designed the chairs and tables in the cleanest lines possible: gray-blue or blue-black leatherette on stainless steel legs seat customers as their cups of coffee or cappuccino are held up by white, square tables. A cone-shaped white fixture near the middle of the café has several rectangular boxes punched into it. The lit boxes highlight products that the café or the audio shop wants customers to notice. The espresso bar countertop is done in stainless steel, the better to show character as it ages. Wood is the usual material for bar countertops, he notes, and this is why he steered clear of it.

But that's another thing with Macbeth: he believes all shops must call attention only to their products. And the service. Failing this, not even beautiful interiors can bring in the business.

He'll tell you that he trained his *baristas* for six months to prepare the espressos and the cappuccinos his way. His formulation?

"I take a very, very old formula and just adapt it to my taste, the way I want it, so you cannot compare it with anyone else's coffee. The others, they're fast-food, franchises. I don't believe in franchises. Your quality will go down."

SHAKESPEARE/p.G2

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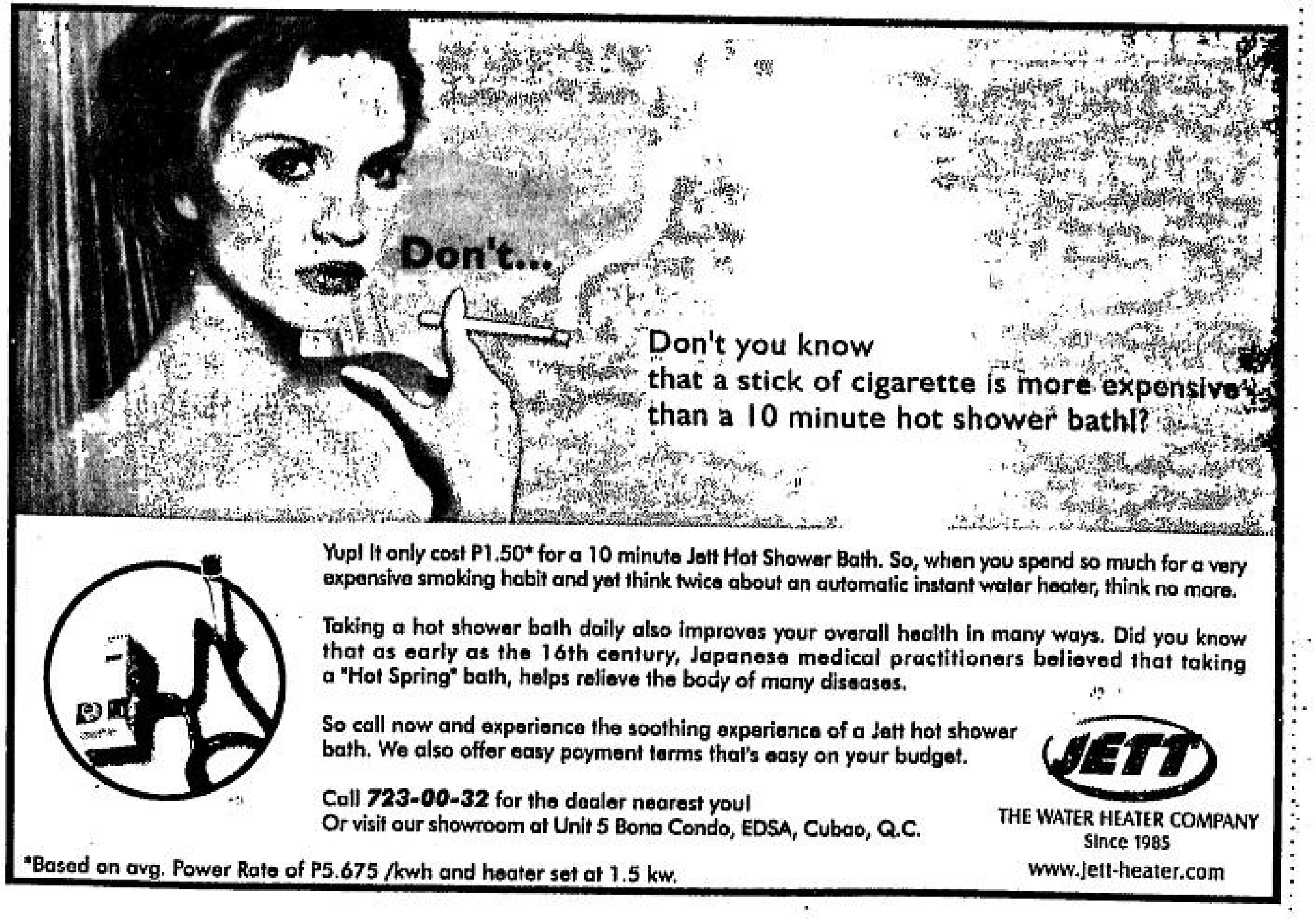
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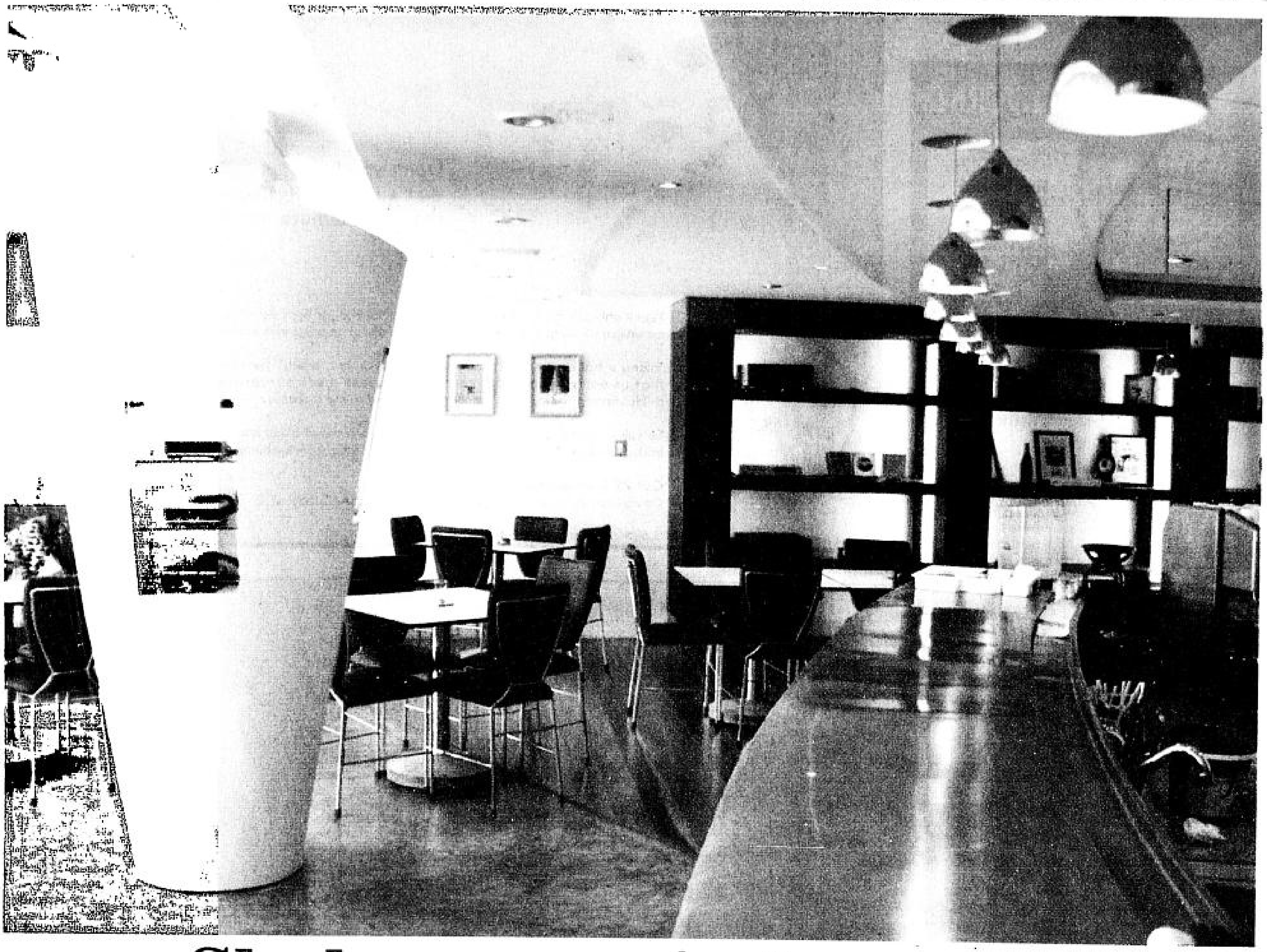


THE INTERIOR design is a combination of curves and lines. The curves are seen in the drop ceiling of the bar and column cladding. Drop lights over the bar echo the shapes of the ceiling and bar. The shelves are overscaled to display the audio "toys." The design shows judicious use of lighting, ranging from natural light to incandescent, table stems and overhead lights. White backlighting focuses on the products.

INEXPENSIVE materials are given a twist. The table is made of laminate top with PVC trim. The shape of the leatherette backrest echoes the shape of the column.

Shakespeare in love–with caffeine

Macbeth Dy and his Focal Café in Greenhills are expected to bring some bardic poetry to the coffee-shop scene in Manila

(From page G1)

He'll tell you he started drinking coffee at age 19 and is still loving it now at 30. He'll tell you that "unfortunately" the most-ordered item on Focal's menus is brewed coffee, partly because it is refillable.

Every two months something new will be added to Focal's menu, which right now has a cup of expresso at P60 and unflavored cappuccino at P70 and flavored cappuccino at P90, among others. There are not too many items on the menu, just enough cakes, gourmet sandwiches, dessert items and salads to make choosing easy. In Taiwan, where Macbeth lived for 15 years, coffee shops do not carry food that needs heavy cooking. "The whole dining room will start to smell," he explains.

Other peculiarities

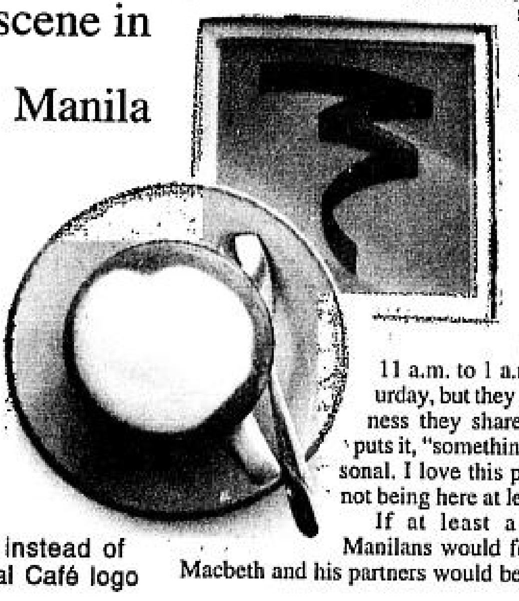
Other Macbeth-isms about coffee? As there is no decaf to be had at Focal, so there is also no low fat milk—only pasteurized milk is used in the premises. Focal also uses what he fondly calls "dirty brown sugar," the rawest sugar possible, which "makes your coffee just that much thicker" than white sugar. But better yet, "try my coffee without sugar,' he pleads. That way, you can savor its essence. Grudgingly, he has allowed a brand of sweetener to be carried in the premises for the diabetics among Focal's customers. How about the latte? "Smell it after you drink it. You smell chocolate, caramel. You have a sensory overload," he gushes.

Espresso takes only about 25 seconds to make, from machine to glass, he says, and you also drink it fast, savoring only the aftertaste. The "top part, the crema, is the best part. You taste it, you smell the aroma. You can add two teaspoons of sugar. I'll kill you if you ask for more."

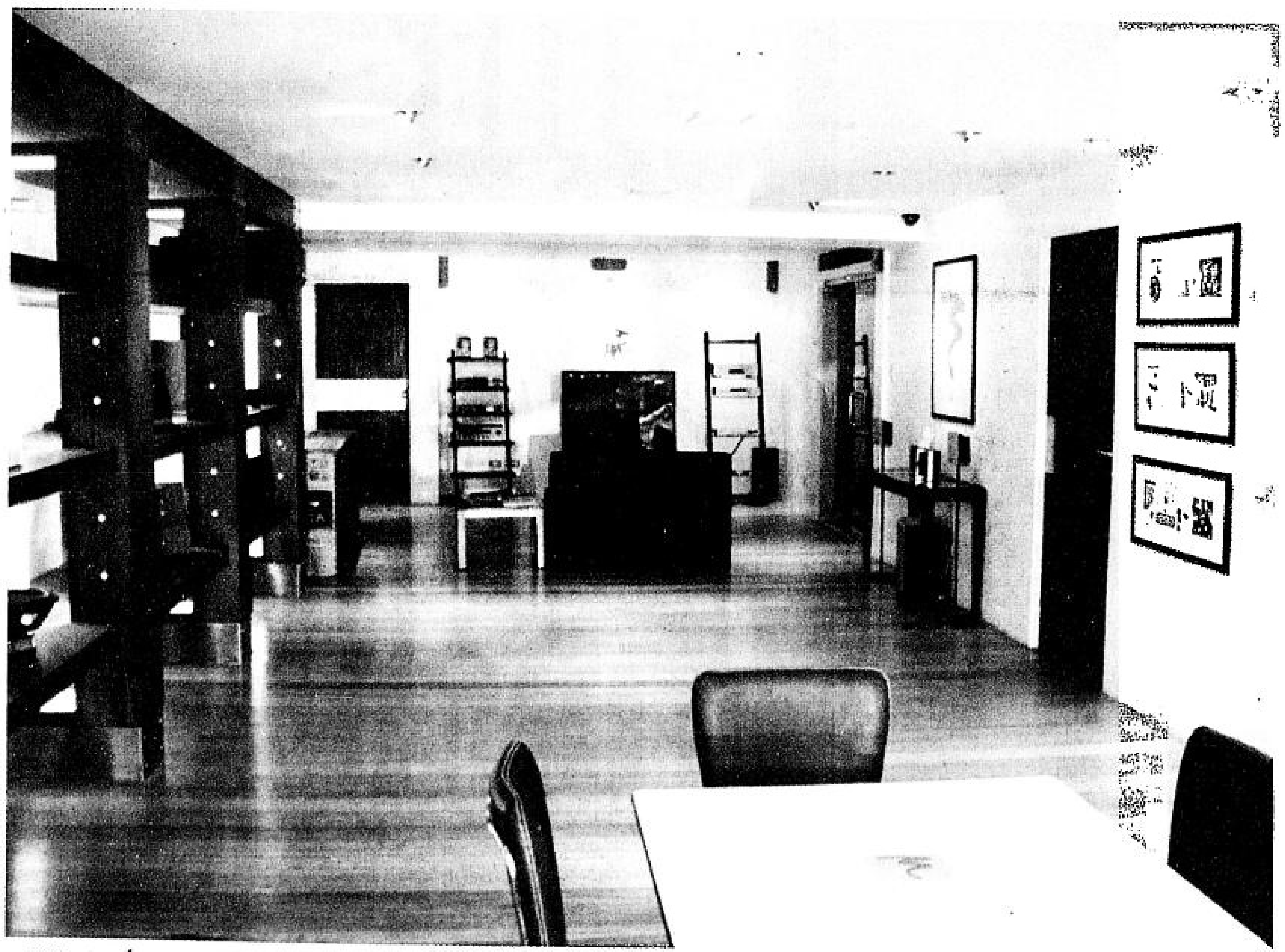
But perhaps even non-coffee drinkers can go try Focal Café. Mickey coaxes everyone "not to hesitate to come in and ask anything about audio equipment, you don't have to buy anything... we're here to serve. Don't be pressured, just enjoy the music."

The other partners—Hans Yao, "Uncle" Nelson Yao and Sherwin Chua-Lim—are not in Focal as much as Macbeth and Mickey are, from 11 a.m. to midnight, Sunday to Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday, but they agree that the business they share is, like Macbeth puts it, "something good, small, personal. I love this place, I can't stand not being here at least once a day."

If at least a third of Metro Manilans would feel the same way, Macbeth and his partners would be set up for life.

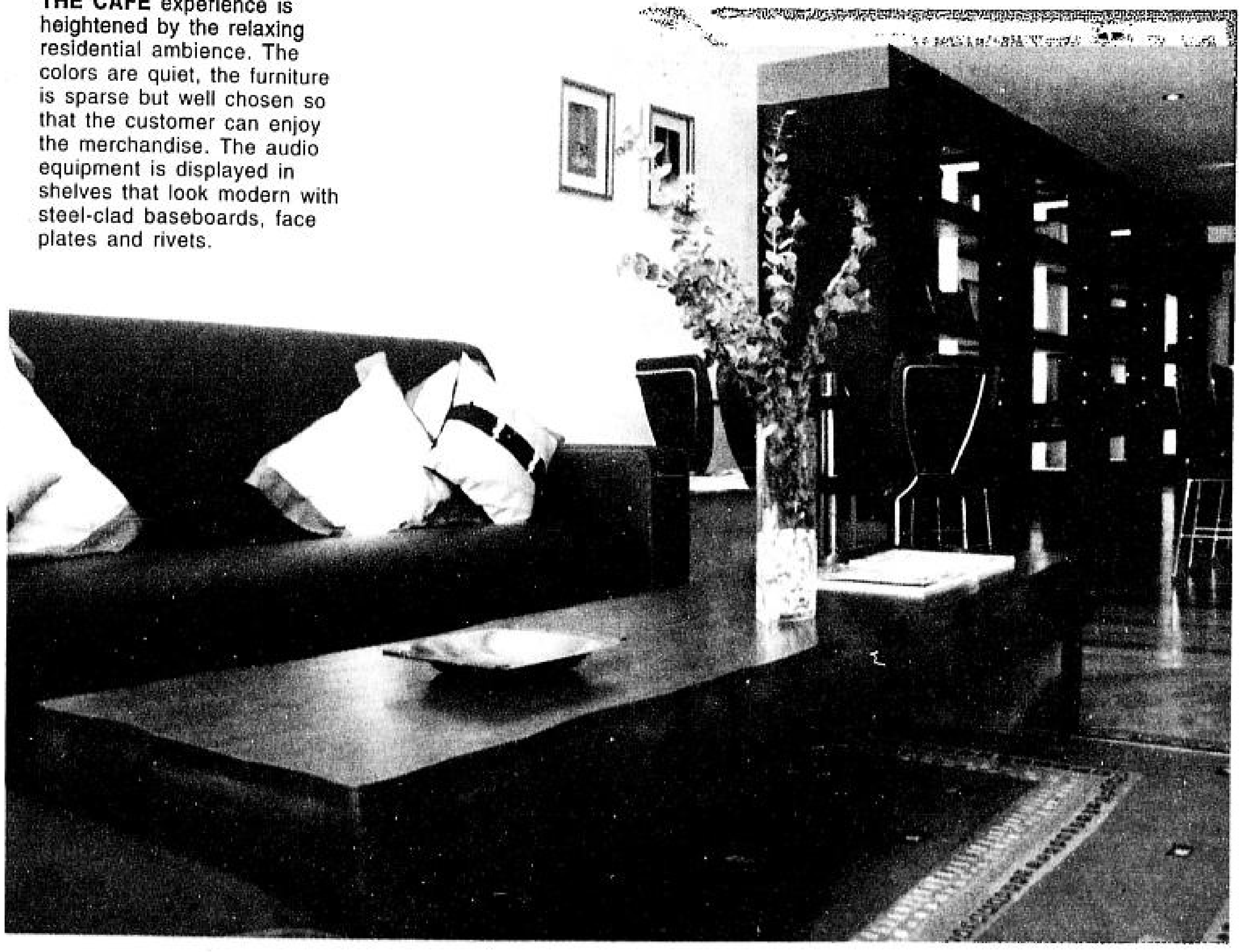


GLASS instead of the Focal Café logo



THE CAFÉ experience is heightened by the relaxing residential ambience. The colors are quiet, the furniture is sparse but well chosen so that the customer can enjoy the merchandise. The audio equipment is displayed in shelves that look modern with steel-clad baseboards, face plates and rivets.

VERY INDUSTRIAL. Combining raw concrete and natural flooring is a trendy look. Both materials age better. The concrete base of the table and overscaled stem reflects the cutting-edge look of the place.



THIS bar looks homey with this coffeetable made of a single plank of *narra*. The carpet with its playfully geometric design complements the flooring.

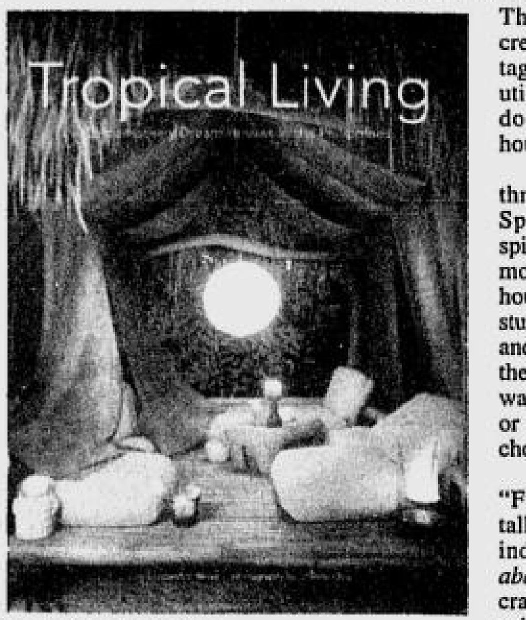
Dream dwellings

Tropical Living: Contemporary Dream Houses in the Philippines
By Elizabeth V. Reyes
With Fernando Nakpil Zialcita and Paulo Alcazaran
Photography by Chester Ong

BY CHERISH GARCIA-HERNANDEZ

REVIEW

IN ELIZABETH V. Reyes' coffee-table book called "Tropical Living" the keyword is "dream." Not only are the houses featured gloriously opulent, most of them are beach or vacation houses. Truly an insight to how a small percentage of Filipinos that are untouched by the economic meltdown. The book is divided into six parts, all with a generous amount of full-color photographs.



The first part, "Asian Fusion and Cross Currents," features homes that make use of "tropical craft techniques and Asian embellishment." Basically, houses inspired by a fusion of Filipino and other Asian styles like Baan Thai or Balinese.

The second chapter, "Reworking the Vernacular," discusses how tropical environmental factors were taken into consideration in the various architectural styles presented. A common theme here was the use of large windows and high ceilings for better ventilation.

Houses designed by architects like Leandro Locsin and Fernando Mañosa showed the resourceful use of local styles and materials. Bamboo, coconut and rattan were utilized and combined with traditional modern building materials.

The Pleno house, designed by architect Mañosa, had *capiz* shells for ceiling fixtures and wall coverings made from sugar cane, rice stalks, hemp and beaten bamboo poles. Another example of this style is a deconstructed *bahay kubo*. This was a huge contemporary house that has a high sloping roof, sliding windows and latticework throughout, mirroring trademark *bahay kubo* qualities.

Modern

Homes designed by modern advocates like architect Lor Calma are found in the section for the "Urban Modern and Minimalist." The houses here are linear and angular and often have simple minimalist interiors. Throwing around ethnic artifacts in a concrete, glass or granite setting was a common theme in these houses.

The chapter called "Rustic Assemblage" had houses that were not easily categorized, according to the author. These are houses that "adhere to no stylistic convention but are strong individualistic statements." Predictably these homes belonged to artists or art purveyors. A lot of them combined industrial and rustic materials with personal accents. They were colorful and creative as in the Diaz Calatagan cottage wherein they utilized recycled beams and doors from old Binondo houses in Manila.

Aptly titled "Latin Rhythms," a section features Spanish- or Mexican-inspired houses. These were mostly Mediterranean-style houses with lavish use of stucco and tiles like Machuca and Vigan. Staying with the theme, choice of furnishings was wrought iron, and white or pastel was the color of choice for the walls.

The book ends with a "Furnishing Index" that talks in detail about local indigenous materials like *abaca*, *capiz*, *piña*, coconut crafts and wooded art. Their primary uses and origins make up the text in this final chapter.

Ideal

No doubt about it, these houses are beautiful. Most of them are the ideal way to live in a tropical setting such as ours. They have the luxury of space, which helps, and many open up to a terrace, verandah or lanai. The use of many local materials and furniture, as well as the many works of Filipino artists that adorn the walls of these homes, are validation that we can have our own local style.

The book's photographs are impressive with the lighting always setting the mood for the homes whether it was in a secluded beach or private subdivision. The writing, however, tended to get caught up in its own prose. Often it felt like an ode to something abstract rather than a book on design. Maybe too many insights and interviews, derailed the original concept of what we assume was supposed to be a coffee-table book with solid informative architectural and design concepts. Nevertheless, ideas or inspiration abound and suddenly a home by the sea seems very appealing. Or so we wish.

E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com

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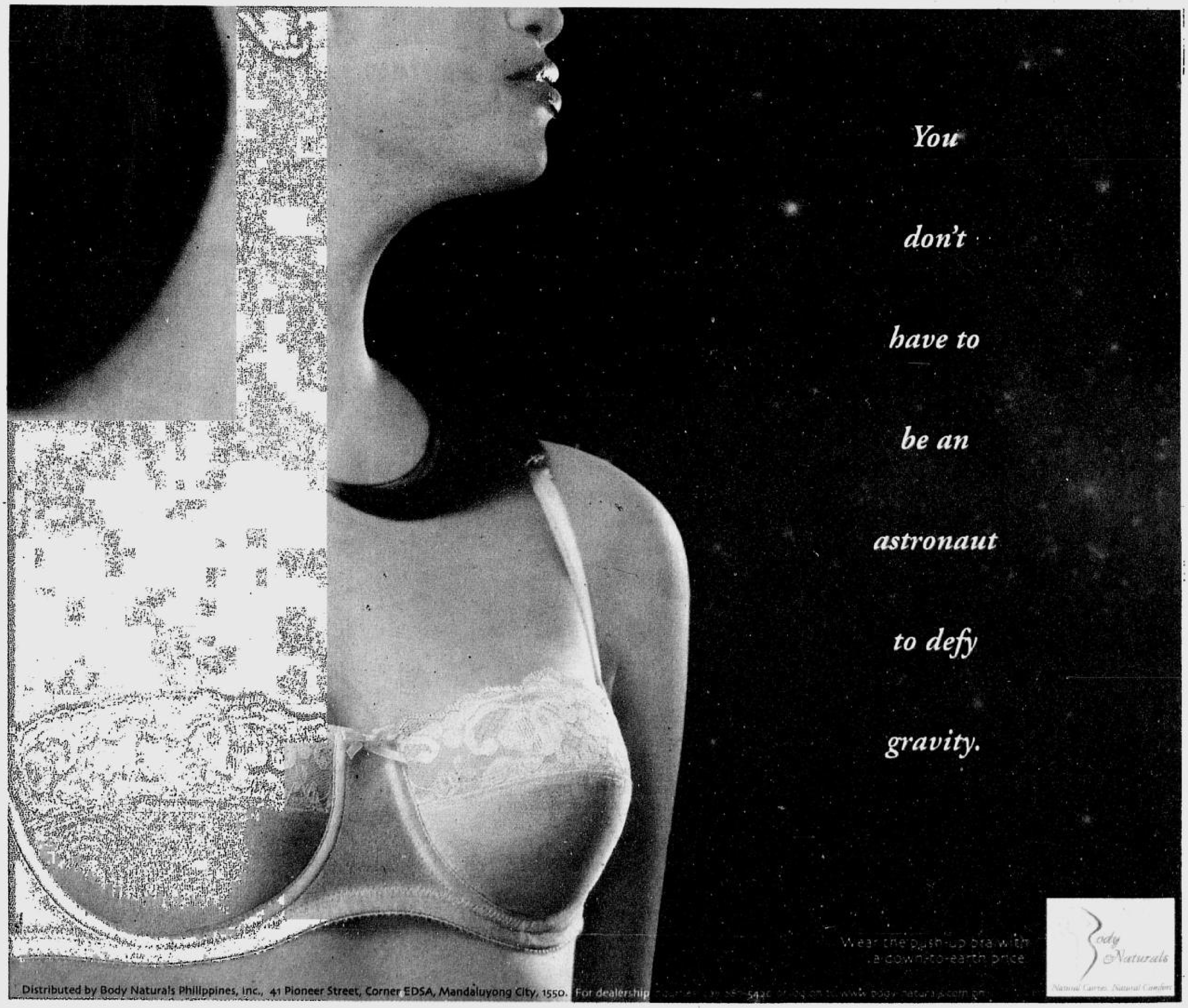

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